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IMPRESSIONS OF BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

THE CHIEF OF IGITALKARAN

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2012

Babasaheb, Narayan Rao
Impressions of British
life and character.

2012

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IMPRESSIONS OF BRITISH LIFE
AND CHARACTER



Photo, W. & D. Downey.

THEIR MAJESTIES KING GEORGE V. AND QUEEN MARY.

Frontispiece.

IMPRESSIONS

BRITISH LIFE AND
CHARACTER

ON THE OCCASION OF A EUROPEAN TOUR
1913

BY

MEHERBAN NARAYANRAO BABASAHEB
CHIEF OF ICHALKARANJI
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

THE RIGHT HON. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON
G.C.S.I.

MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED
ST. MARTIN'S STREET, LONDON

1914

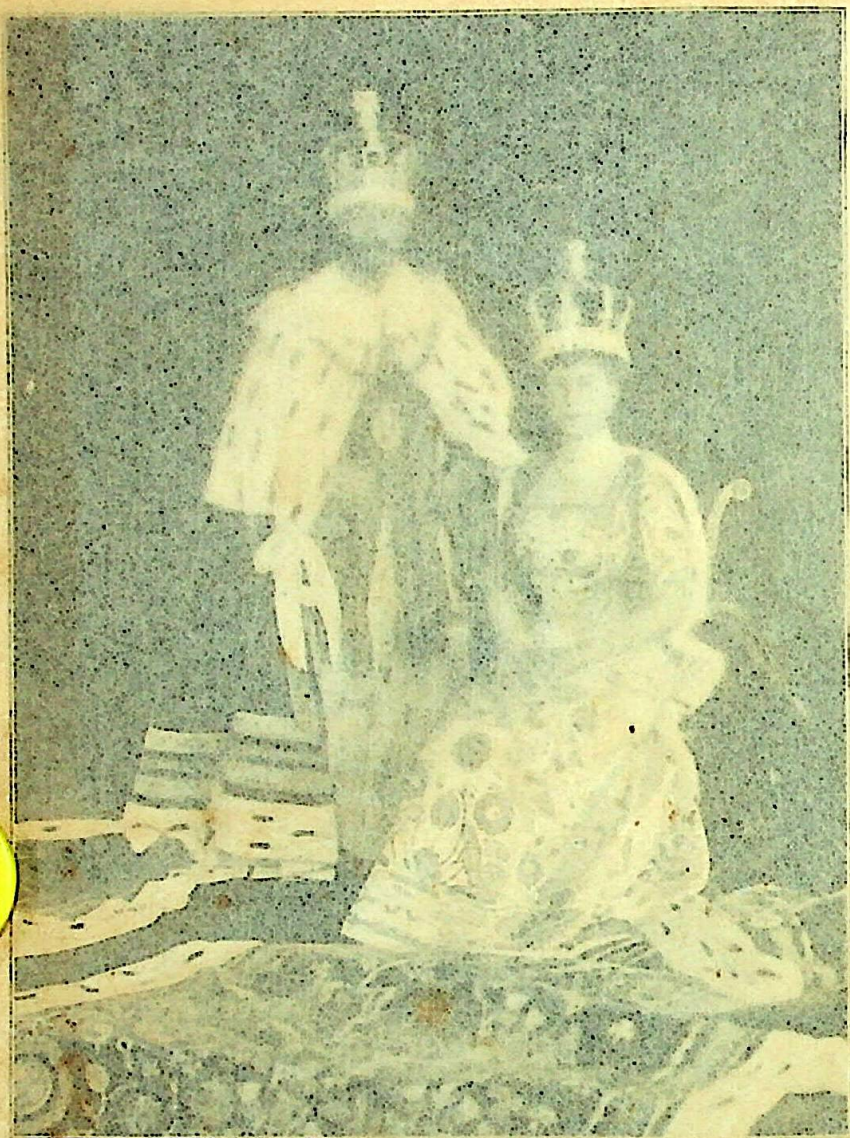


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Dedication

TO MY FELLOW-SUBJECTS, BRITISH AND INDIAN,
I DEDICATE THESE IMPRESSIONS OF MY VISIT TO
THE WEST IN THE HOPE THAT THEIR PERUSAL
MAY SERVE TO STILL FURTHER STRENGTHEN
THE BONDS OF SERVICE AND SYMPATHY WHICH
ENDEAR GREAT-BRITAIN TO MY BELOVED
MOTHERLAND.

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1911

INTRODUCTION

I GLADLY consented to write a few words of introduction to the accompanying series of sketches of the travels and impressions of a well-educated and well-known Indian Chief, Narayanrao Babasaheb, Chief of Ichalkaranji.

The Babasaheb was born in 1870, and he succeeded to the *gadi* by adoption in 1876. He was educated at the Rajaram College, Kolhapur, and at Elphinstone College, Bombay. From the time of his installation up to now he has most successfully interested himself in the management of his State, and the experience he there gained, combined with his natural acquisitive ability, enabled him to become quite an authority on a number of questions of general Indian administration. He has converted the indebtedness of his State into one of solvency, with a State Treasury at the present moment possessing a considerable balance. He has paid very careful attention to the educational and medical services of the State, and in agriculture he obtained such knowledge as enabled him to preside with efficiency over the Agricultural

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

Conference of 1910 in Bombay. He has also been most successful in developing the rural co-operative credit movement, having started a number of societies in his State for that purpose. For the last fourteen years he has been representing the Sirdars of the Deccan in the Bombay Legislative Council.

Though these papers relate to his first visit to Europe, he has been a great traveller both in the Indian and the Malay Peninsulas, and wherever he has gone he has kept a most observant eye upon the incidents with which he has come in contact. He speaks and writes English remarkably well, and he has published and translated for the people of the Deccan vernacular translations of two English works—*Rural Economy in the Deccan*, by Mr. G. F. Keatinge, C.I.E., Director of Agriculture, Bombay Presidency, and *Leaves*, the poems and stories of the late Miss Violet Clarke, daughter of Lord Sydenham. At the East India Association on June 23, 1913, he read a notable paper on "What has Britain done for India?"; and to the *Asiatic Review* for January 1914 he contributed "A Plea for the Mahratta Brahman," with the object of "helping to eradicate, or at least to minimise, the feelings of estrangement which exist on both sides." He is a high-caste Mahratta Brahman, and his opinions are therefore interesting and valuable, as the caste to which he belongs were the last great native rulers who were dispossessed

INTRODUCTION

by the British Raj of their authority ; and the fact that he is so born and circumstanced gives special force to the opinions which he holds—that, notwithstanding the objections and prejudice which undoubtedly exist in many parts of India against British rule as now established, the future well-being of the country depends upon the continuance of the strength of that authority.

I personally came in contact with him whilst in residence at Deal Castle, the Chief having hired a house in its immediate neighbourhood. I had long and interesting conversations with him on many of the topics now engrossing Anglo-Indian attention. I was much struck by his knowledge, his impartiality, and his evident wish to do full justice to the benefits conferred upon India by British rule. At the same time he gives expression to the view that the government of India should be more in the hands of native-born Indians than it is at the present time, and that the work of supervision and advice should be carried on by only a limited number of Europeans.

A perusal of the *Impressions of British Life and Character* must impress the reader, first, with the excellent and pregnant English in which the Impressions are written, and secondly, with the singular shrewdness and perception which the writer evinces in his descriptions. The Impressions cover a very large number of topics that have in themselves little connection, but they are very interesting as emanating from

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a mind that has never before been in personal contact with Europe or directly with its civilisation, and although the standpoint from which these various descriptions are written naturally differs from that of an average European, yet the conclusions at which he generally arrives are those which are the common property of educated Europeans. On most of the distinguished Indians who have travelled in Europe the impression made by the life of that continent is one of uniformity and similarity. More than one distinguished native has said to me, "In Europe you all wear the same clothes, you eat the same food, you worship the same God, you have the same customs and fashions right throughout. In any one great Indian town you would find far more diversity of religion, dress, customs, and race than we could find in the whole of Europe." That criticism is, I think, true, and it is undoubtedly this extraordinary diversity of race, of religion, of nationality, of custom, and of tradition in India which constitutes the necessity for and strength of the supreme government of that country by Great Britain.

Reverting to the opinions of the Babasaheb, nothing could be neater and more concise than his description of the differences of belief of the Established Church and the Presbyterian and the Wesleyan communions. He is full of admiration for the London policeman. Going on to the House of Commons, he pertinently remarks: "Listening to the debates, I formed

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the impression that propaganda work . . . was being done by means of speeches in Parliament."

Whilst adopting an impartial attitude as regards customs and fashions, he expresses his surprise that the adolescent young man should insist upon wearing such high and tight white collars and narrow shoes—a criticism which, I think, finds expression in many other quarters, and, not least, amongst those subject to these penances. Neither is he more favourably impressed by the modern fashions of women :— "The exposed neck, the hobble skirt, and the slit dress with open side, revealing the quality of the underwear." His comment that "these surely mark the acme of unbecoming absurdity" will be endorsed by all who dislike in feminine dress the combination of the indecent and the ridiculous. Neither have the ambitions of the social climber escaped his criticism, nor the craze of certain persons to imitate their social superiors and to create a false impression as to their real position by ostentatious display and servile imitation.

On the other hand, he combats the not uncommon Indian contention that an Anglo-Indian official lives in better style in India than he does in England. On the contrary, he arrives at the conclusion that, in going out to India and there settling, he gives up a good deal more than he obtains.

There is one regret rather than complaint to which he gives expression and with which I

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

think all will sympathise. Admitting the great value which the whole of India obtains from Anglo-Indian officials of high authority and of great experience during their tenure of office, he regrets that the termination of office of the official almost without exception takes him and his experience back to England, and thus India loses the benefit of the past experience of distinguished administrators which it undoubtedly would retain if at the termination of their office they were located in the country which they had administered. This is a drawback—and, I am afraid, an insurmountable drawback—of any system by which those high in authority come from one part of the world to administer another. Neither can I think of any means by which it would be possible to prevent the vast majority of Englishmen who have occupied high posts in India from ending their days in the country of their nativity.

The Babasaheb's opinions upon a national system of education divorced from religious instruction does not differ from those held by the great majority of educationalists in this country. "We have been watching with growing disgust the unfortunate results accruing from giving our boys education which leaves them without any regard for the religion and the traditions of their people. The recent troubles in India are more or less the direct result of this divorce of religion from education. Not having learned to fear God, . . . they

INTRODUCTION

have lost all sense of reverence for religious, political, or civil authority. The policy of the Indian Government has always been avowed neutrality; and that has led to the absence of the religious element from the instructional system. . . . I believe no substantial results can be obtained by individual private effort . . . unless the Government makes religious instruction a more or less recognised part of the curriculum of education" given to Indian children throughout the country.

The two concluding chapters, "Public Opinion" and "Britain and India," though short, are so well written and contain so succinct an account and analysis of how public opinion is created and controlled in Great Britain, and of what the policy of Great Britain and India in combination should be for the future development of our great Indian Empire, that I should be sorry by any excerpts from the context to mar the effect of the whole. East and West are, in the interchange of thought, in the adoption of any common action or combined policy, faced by the primary difficulty that words and deeds seldom have the same meaning or the same effect outside as they obtain in the environment of their conception. This elementary fact has ever to be borne in mind respecting all the multiplicity of transactions arising from Great Britain's connection with India. Throughout the whole of this most interesting commentary on men and manners this dominant consideration

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runs, and the fact that it is written by a highly-educated and highly-born Indian Brahman who, in addition to his caste and ability, is a successful local ruler, gives its utterances an exceptional significance and influence.

GEORGE HAMILTON.

THE CASTLE, DEAL,
4th March 1914.

FOREWORD

My first extended tour was to places in Northern India, in 1891, before I was entrusted with the administration of my State. I kept a journal then for the benefit of my friends and relations. I remember the first trip that I made, when a boy, to witness the International Exhibition at Calcutta in December 1883. I was then asked by the Principal of my College to write out an essay describing the exhibition. As such shows were not common in India, and as this happened to be an international exhibition, I well remember the interest with which not only the students but also the masters and professors read my humble production.

I have had occasion to travel either for great ceremonials, like the two Coronation Durbars at Delhi, or on visits to places of interest in India. But a very instructive journey I undertook was to the Malay Peninsula and to Java in the summer of 1912. Though I went principally for the sake of the effect of a sea-voyage, on my health, it was productive of much benefit to me in several other respects, and paved the way for the extended visit to Europe of which I write in the following pages.

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

It has been my practice to keep notes of my travels, and to give an account of them to my people after returning to my State. The tour herein described has been the longest and most interesting I have undertaken, and as so many facilities exist in Europe for publishing such experiences in book form, many of my friends pressed me to undertake the task. I have consented to do so with great diffidence. The books written by the "globe-trotters" who visit my country and then publish their impressions are not always marked by accuracy ; indeed, the errors they contain would be amusing but for the fact that they are liable to create misunderstanding. With such unhappy examples before my eyes, it is a great boldness on my part to commit to paper and give to the public my impressions of a visit to Great Britain extending only over a period of seven months. But I crave the indulgence of my readers for any mistakes or shortcomings in attempting to relate facts, and beg them to regard the opinions expressed as entirely personal, and not give them a representative character.

Many of the points I have noted may appear to some to be but mere platitudes. I have found it somewhat difficult to select topics because I have had in mind that my circle of readers will be British as well as Indian. Some things that will interest readers in one country may be nothing new to those in another. My endeavour has been to write rather for Indians

FOREWORD

than the English; and with what success I leave my readers to judge. Though I deal mainly with British life and character, I have thought it best to give completeness to the record (up to the time of my leaving England for a short trip in Switzerland and Italy) by devoting the first few chapters to my experiences and observations on the westward voyage and in France, through which I passed on my way to London.

I take this opportunity of thanking Lord George Hamilton for kindly undertaking to write the Introduction. It was a great privilege to come in contact with his Lordship, and to have long conversations on Indian matters with one who so long and successfully filled the Secretaryship of State for India. Although it is true that ordinarily the Britisher in England is not very well informed about questions affecting the Eastern Empire, still it was marvellous to find how well posted upon them are Englishmen now or formerly connected officially with India.

Another gentleman whom I must thank most heartily is Sir George Birdwood. It was the greatest pleasure to come into contact with him, as I was privileged throughout my early manhood to be intimate with one of his brothers, the late Hon. Mr. Justice H. M. Birdwood, sometime member of the Bombay Government. Though Sir George left India many years ago, his interest in that land of his birth is as sympathetic as ever, and it was very cheering to

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meet with a gentleman of his great distinction and public influence who, in spite of recent agitations and follies there, still extends, in advanced age, his strenuous support to our Brahmanical castes and institutions. I am also greatly indebted to Mr. F. H. Brown, the well-known publicist on Indian affairs, for kindly undertaking to see this work through the press, after my departure on the return journey.

Captain Lang, of the Bombay Political Department, and Mrs. Lang spared no trouble in arranging for the comfort and convenience of the Rani Saheb and myself. Captain Lang has been of great service to me not only with respect to this book, but also in everything concerning my extensive tour throughout Europe. He worked out the programme of the trip, made the necessary arrangements, and then carried them through successfully, and I am deeply thankful to him. I am also obliged to many kind friends in England, who made it very easy for me to see things, and who tried to make me feel at home among them.

Before concluding I must thank my dear nephew, Rao Saheb Joshi, and also Mr. H. V. Ashton, the shorthand writer, without whose ready and loyal help I could not have finished this work with so much expedition and ease.

NARAYANRAO BABASAHEB,
CHIEF OF ICHALKARANJJI.

LONDON,
November 1913.

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CHAPTER I

ON THE VOYAGE

Yearly the corners of the earth are drawn
More closely still together. Wire and rail
Begin, though slowly, to prevail,
And hasten on for mankind's good the dawn
Of Peaceful Ages.

Each ship that's launched upon the Ocean's breast,
Each road that's opened into lands unknown,
Imparts fresh impulse to the labours blest
Of those—the patient builders of the Throne—
Who pass contented to their rest
If they to its foundation add one stone.

To leave one's home, relations, and friends for a journey to far-distant parts is an ordeal which cannot fail to stir the deeper emotions of the human heart. Although I had a strong desire to visit Europe, it was not without a pang of regret that in the early spring of 1913 I bade "Adieu!" to my native land. Many people had kindly assembled on the pier at Bombay to see me off, and there was literally a cart-load of floral gifts as silent and eloquent messengers of goodwill. It is at such times that one realises the value of friendship and how much real goodness there is in human nature.

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The charm of novelty made the first few days on board the steamship *Tarra* pass pleasantly enough. It was a life of freedom, the time between meals being beguiled by social intercourse and promenades along the deck. Entertainments and games were also arranged from time to time, and we made many new acquaintances, racial distinctions being forgotten. It took a little while, of course, to become accustomed to European habits after the rigid formality of Oriental life. The voyage was in itself an education. It is impossible to pass some time on board a modern English steamship without strongly realising the power of the greatest maritime nation on the earth. Therein, the British Empire contrasts with the India of the past. The greatest concrete power in the Asia of ancient times, that of the Indian Aryans, founded colonies in the Farther East—as I was reminded by my tour in the Malay Peninsula and Java in 1912. Had only a fraction of its genius been directed to continuing these oversea enterprises, what an Empire that of the Hindus might have become!

But that is a digression. What I wish to observe is the fine impression the voyage gave me of the majesty and might of Great Britain. A big ship in these days is a small floating town. But in it everything is highly compressed; all the latest inventions in equipment and all that makes for luxury and comfort are shown in a focus, and thus they make a deeper impression

ANCIENT INDIA

than the same things do when distributed generally, as in a town. That is why I consider a voyage to be to the untravelled passenger quite an education in itself.

The kind way in which I was received, the courtesy shown me, and the many little things done to put me at my ease were most gratifying. Judged by records of the British people in ancient days, they have acquired in this twentieth century of theirs quite an Asiatic polish. Well, is it not true that civilisation, like light, really comes from the Orient? One thing rather surprised me in conversations on the voyage and subsequently, namely, that not many British people seem to know anything about the Hindu Mahabharata. That great epic shows how far we had advanced ages ago when Europe was still in a backward state, corresponding to that of the people of the fever-infested Terai at the foot of the Himalayas, or the aboriginal tribes of the Nerbudda Valley. When the Mahabharata was known throughout India, the people of Europe were little better than savages; they had few arts, and no philosophy.

I have read some accounts of the ancient cities of Europe, and to my thinking, neither they nor their modern successors can compare with those of our olden time. There was Krishna's city of Dwaravati, with its parks, flower gardens, canals, and wonderful arcades. The houses had beautiful staircases, and in

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

Krishna's Palace were a thousand crystal columns. I wondered by the way what sort of a place the Crystal Palace, at Sydenham, would prove in comparison with that stately Indian palace of the past. It is from India that Europe drew much of its civilisation, probably indeed some of its religion, and certainly its philosophy. Had we only subdued the dreaded *kala-pani* [black water], had we only been as those adventurous Arabs who built up dominion in Spain, what an Empire we might have reared ! But it was not to be ; and now I welcome in the vast British Empire an all-embracing, powerful and benignant Mother of races able to share with us supreme power from East to West !

At the various stopping-places on our voyage I wished that I could find something new to say about them, as they filled me with such delight and wonder. But they were all obviously quite matters of course to my European friends on board. There was Aden, for example. I fancy most of my companions mainly regarded it as one of the hot places of the earth. I wonder how many remembered that nineteen centuries ago it was in possession of the Romans. It is perhaps better known that until the Portuguese discovered the sea route to India by the Cape of Good Hope it was the great emporium of Asiatic produce for distribution westwards. As the steamer stayed a few hours, I took the opportunity of going ashore and visiting the Political Resident (Major-General Sir James A.

ADEN

Bell) and some of the high officials. I also had a drive through the town and saw the ancient stone tanks for the collection and storage of water, the building of which is credited to the wise King Solomon.

The town occupies the crater of an extinct volcano, and presents a dreary appearance. I was impressed by the large number of small bazaars, representative of so many communities. There are some Indians there, and representatives of races from the coast and interior of Africa, together with a number of Europeans. We did not feel quite like foreigners in Aden, this being an outpost of the Bombay Government. Hindustani is understood there, and we also came across a few Mahratta-speaking employés. The Resident very kindly lent us his motor car, so that we could do our sight-seeing and shopping very comfortably in the time at our disposal. Here I met my old friend, Capt. B. R. Reilly, of the Bombay Political Department, who came to receive me and gave me much valuable information and advice with regard to our prospective travels on the Continent.

Aden is strongly fortified, but not so strongly, it is said, as is desirable in view of its strategic importance as the gateway to the East. I had no time to visit the fortifications, which, with the guns, are hidden in the hills. From the top of the hills a picturesque view of the coast is obtained, with the town nestling in the valley. The fashionable quarter is quite separate from

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

the remainder of the town, communication being through a tunnel. The camel was, of course, very noticeable in the streets, as well as the more familiar donkey and goat.

At Port Said we also had a few hours to spare, and went for a drive round the town. Here ethnologically, if not physically, the three Continents of the Old World meet. The Arab race predominates, but all nationalities are represented, and almost every race has its own quarter. The place is quite modern in appearance, and is of very little interest beyond giving a somewhat crude idea of the get-up of a European town. The streets are broad, but not well kept. The British dominance is, however, discernible, and here may be seen the first attempt to Europeanise Orientals as far as town-planning and municipal matters go.

But I ought not to omit reference to the Suez Canal. Who can tell whether, if the Egyptians in the days of the Pharaohs had cut the Canal (the builders of the Pyramids might have done it), the relations of India to Europe generally, and to Great Britain in particular, might not have been very different? I know this—the nations of the West in ancient days had strong, persistent desires to come into contact with the Orient, and the best of their wise men quite recognised how much there was to learn from us.

I liked the Mediterranean very much—that is, the warmer sections. What a marvellous sea

THE MEDITERRANEAN

it is ! As we entered it I could not forbear from picturing in imagination how along that almost tideless, historic waterway, through the procession of the ages had passed the ships of the Egyptians, of the Hebrews in Solomon's days, of the Athenians, the Roman galleys, the Turkish ships of the conquering Moslems, the vessels of the Venetians, and lastly, the warships of Great Britain to supreme conquest at the battle of the Nile. I could not help thinking more especially of the days when the entire shores on either side were Roman. Some one has said that the ancient Romans were the business men of the then known world. Yes, and in Great Britain they certainly have their legitimate heirs.

But, after all, were the Romans alone in that respect? I think not. Take one of our own castes, the Vaisya, that is the mercantile class. They are enjoined to turn their attention to every description of commerce. They are, in a phrase, to become perfect men of business. That was ordained long before the Romans became the men of business of the ancient world. The Romans combined statecraft with business, but in India the two became divorced, and both ultimately suffered. This was one of the mistakes of the Aryans, which may perhaps have led to their downfall. No doubt we of later ages have enormous advantages, seeing that we inherit such stores of accumulated wisdom, such manifold methods for doing everything in

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

the best way. But these advantages are only valuable in so far as the races inheriting them have the elements that make a nation great, viz., enterprise, courage, grit, public spirit, honesty and integrity.

It was through these impressions of a delightful voyage that I came to the conclusion that a trip in a modern British liner—a veritable floating palace—is in itself quite an education. Such ships are now found on every sea; they literally surround the whole world, and are for ever coming and going. That surely is a reflection to make any native of India proud when he knows that he too is a member of an Empire far vaster and more widely flung than that of ancient Rome.

Passing through the Straits of Messina, with the town of Reggio on the Italian coast, and Barcelona on the Sicilian side, we obtained our first close glimpse of Europe. We reached Messina in the early morning and at once went on deck, but could discern nothing except the long line of lights upon the shore. The quantity of lamps rather surprised me, and it seemed as if we were nearing a big city like Bombay. As the day dawned we could distinguish the green slopes of Sicily and Italy on either side, the railways, fields dotted with houses, and general signs of life and movement. I was struck by the beauty of the luxuriant hill-sides, with their rich vegetation. Every particle of ground, except the boulders of rock, seemed to be

THE TYRRHENIAN SEA

cultivated, and the sight of the beautiful green was an inspiration. I had come from the East with great expectations as to natural scenery, and these were surpassed by the infinite charm of everything I saw. Passing the famous islands of Sardinia, Corsica, and Elba (the scene of Napoleon's exile), we saw a volcano at Stromboli. Although it was in eruption, and smoke was issuing from it on all sides, the mountain slopes were cultivated, and the existence of houses in the vicinity, which struck us as being somewhat perilous, showed that the peasant folk, at any rate, knew no fear. We afterwards made a smooth and pleasant crossing to Marseilles.

CHAPTER II

IN SOUTHERN FRANCE

How beautiful the dome of sky,
The rolling hills and sunlit sea !

WORDSWORTH.

Towered cities please us, and the hum of men.

MILTON.

THE first thing that struck me on landing at Marseilles was the busy aspect of the streets. Large crowds thronged the thoroughfares, every one dressed in sombre attire, which contrasted strangely with the bright and vivid colours of the East. The clatter of boots upon the pavement, though not altogether unfamiliar, as we are used to the tramp of soldiers in India, was nevertheless a rather peculiar sound to visitors from a country where boots are not generally worn. Another novelty was the sight of big carts and horses drawing huge loads along the streets. In some instances I noticed teams of three, four, and even six horses attached to vehicles. In the East oxen take the place of

MARSEILLES

horses, being more suited to the country and the nature of the soil and climate.

Marseilles, the third largest town of France and the first seaport, was founded by the Phoenicians, and its importance in modern times was greatly increased by the opening of the Suez Canal. On the first day we went up in the hydraulic lifts to the church of Notre Dame de la Garde. The church, though small, is magnificently situated, and its lofty eminence affords a fine view of the town, the harbour, and the neighbouring hills. A gilded statue of the Virgin Mary, fifty feet in height, renders the church a conspicuous landmark. The interior contains some very fine mosaic work, the altar being embellished with birds and other designs. The two red lamps always kept lit reminded me of the *nandaheep*, or ever-burning lights, in some of our Indian temples. After leaving the sacred shrine we had an enjoyable drive along the fine rows of houses fronting the sea, which are the summer residences of the richer inhabitants. On the next day we passed the famous Roquefavour bridge which spans the canal and connects two hills. The huge structure, which consists of three tiers of sixteen arches, reaches a height of 250 feet, with a length of 450 feet, and is a triumph of engineering skill.

The scenery on the outskirts of the town appealed to my love of the beautiful in Nature. We had not yet become familiar with the green fields and hedgerows of Western Europe, and

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the undulating landscape made a picturesque scene which it was a delight to behold. Indeed, from Marseilles right on to Paris we found France very charming, revealing new beauties at almost every turn. Unlike the barren country-side in India, every stretch of land appeared to have been brought under cultivation ; snug houses dotted the hill-sides, and there was an air of life and comfort which proclaimed the Western notion of civilisation. But we missed at the river-sides a sight that always meets the eye in India. There were no women carrying pails of water, nor cattle being washed in the stream, nor people bathing and offering up prayers and worshipping on the banks of the water. The stillness of the river-side formed a striking contrast with the moving scenes on the banks of Indian rivers. Yet every journey I took in France as well as in Great Britain was extremely interesting. The ever-changing panorama of rich pasture and blue sea, of tree-clad hill and verdant valley, quiet village and busy town, with the alluring charm of new sights and sounds, produced an agreeable and indelible impression on my mind.

Going through Aix-les-Provence, one of the oldest towns in Europe, I was reminded of the Greeks, Romans, and Gauls. The place was a Royal seat when France was divided into three kingdoms, and many of the sights serve as a reminder of former greatness. We passed by the old Town Hall, built in the fourteenth

THE RHÔNE VALLEY

century, and halted at the doors of an ancient church, parts of which originally formed some pagan temple. Some portions date from the eleventh century, and some are as late as the fourteenth. The doors are of beautifully carved oak, and except on special occasions are covered up to escape the ravages of Time. The church is small in dimensions, but contains some beautiful paintings. The ceiling is also beautifully embellished with artistic pictures. The old pagan part is now converted into a baptistery, and has some fine paintings representing the seven sacraments of the Roman Catholic faith. Some of the tapestry, it is worthy of note, was brought from the old St. Paul's Cathedral in London. I was also interested in a natural spring of hot water set in one of the fountains in the street.

We left Marseilles the next day for Lyons. Whatever discomfort we experienced owing to the train being crowded was amply compensated for by the beauty of the scenery. The route was very picturesque, as almost the whole of it lay along the banks of the Rhône. The hills and valleys looked beautifully green, while after passing Avignon—memorable as the home of the Popes during the time of the Interregnum—we came upon rich vineyards. These, though picturesque, reminded me of the better use to which the fertile soil could be put if, instead of being devoted to the creation of luxuries, it were cultivated to produce the necessities of life.

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We stayed at Lyons for only two days. Famous for its silk manufactures, it is in France second only to Paris in population and commercial importance, and presents a very picturesque appearance with the two rivers, the Rhône and Saône, winding their way to a confluence in the vicinity of the town. One of the most interesting things we saw at Lyons was the Nôtre Dame and tower on the hill Fourvière, which we ascended by a lift railway. The church is a magnificent building of Italian marble and looks very imposing from the exterior, while the interior is even more handsome. The central statue of the Virgin Mary has diamonds in its eyes of the reputed value of about £150,000. The pure white marble statues on pillars, the stained-glass windows, and the painted walls and ceiling give the sacred edifice an air of enchanting solemnity. Adjoining the church is a simple building dating from the twelfth century, but looking very much older. About a couple of hundreds of yards away stands the tower, an iron erection on a square foundation. Two hundred and fifty feet high from the base, and approached by a lift as well as stairs, it shows Lyons and its environs to good advantage. We were informed that in fair weather the snow-clad peaks of Mont Blanc and the Alps, some ninety miles distant, can be seen from the tower.

The Stock Exchange is an elegant building, and includes a Museum of Textiles. The varied

LYONS

and ancient collection comprises beautiful gold lace-work, the robes of the mediaeval Popes, some of the garments worn by Louis XIII., Louis XIV., and Louis XV., together with handsome carpets, as well as Grecian and other relics discovered in tombs and in an excellent state of preservation. We further noticed the evolution of the modern looms in various stages of their development in the sixty different models shown. I also paid a hurried visit to the Charity Weaving School, and was very pleased with the work that was shown to me there. We very much wished to see over a silk manufactory, but were informed that this was impossible. Even the British Consul could not arrange it for us. This surprised me, for in India any person can walk into a native workshop ; the proprietor is only too pleased to show him round, and does so without revealing any trade secrets.

I spent a very profitable time at the Bourlleit Motor Works, under the guidance of the courteous manager. An idea of the remarkable development of this important industry may be gathered from the fact that, starting with only ten men thirteen years ago, the factory now has 3000 workmen, turns out 4000 cars a year, and is the second largest in France. The arrangements are of a most up-to-date character, and the place is kept healthy for the workmen by, among other methods, an ingenious dust-clearing apparatus. I watched the construction of the motor car in its various stages, and was then shown some

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excellent cars in the finished state, duly tested and ready for despatch to their various owners. I was surprised to learn that so large is the demand that the firm is unable to give a single car on immediate delivery, and that a customer has to wait more than a couple of months for his order to be executed.

The next day we left for Paris. Along the banks of the Seine we passed through some very delightful country. We could discern in the distance the lovely grounds and forest of Fontainebleau, and the green grass all round looked very charming and refreshing. We reached Paris the same evening, and drove straight to our hotel.

CHAPTER III

FONTAINEBLEAU AND VERSAILLES

THE next day was the Hindu new year's day, and distance from home did not prevent our celebrating it by special Indian dishes. We proceeded by motor to Fontainebleau, the drive being very interesting, as the country we passed through was reminiscent of some of the most stirring episodes in French history. We admired the smooth, straight roads, lined with fine avenues. The highway, we were told, was kept in the same excellent condition as far as Toulon ; and I noticed that the roads generally were without a bend for miles together. We were shown the house, now in the occupation of a great French astronomer, where Napoleon rested for the night after his defeat at Leipsic, before he fell back on Fontainebleau on the eve of his abdication. We also had pointed out to us the course of the first mile ever covered by an aeroplane.

Our attention was attracted on the way by a plough drawn by oxen instead of horses. Such a sight is most familiar in India, but the practice

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has not spread from Western Europe to England. One noticeable difference was that while in India the yoke rests on the hump of the animal, at Fontainebleau it was fastened to his loins. Our guide (a highly intelligent person, a graduate of Cambridge University, who, meeting with a reverse of fortune, had to resort to the work of a courier) informed us that in France people are realising that after all oxen are the most serviceable animals for agricultural labour. Many years ago they were largely used, and now they are again being employed.

On the outskirts of the Forest of Fontainebleau we passed through a small historic village which gave shelter to many past authors, poets, philosophers, and artists. From this village we plunged into the great domain, which covers an area of about 4190 acres, with a circumference of about 56 miles. This is aptly called the first and best forest in France. We were surprised to be told that the huge stones and rocks in the forest were foreign to the soil, and were either the legacy of volcanic eruptions or had drifted there on glaciers in prehistoric times. I was also surprised to notice the absence of undergrowth. While in India it is impossible to see any object twenty yards from the road, and the deep ravines and dizzy heights, as well as the undergrowth makes hunting on horseback an impossibility, the Forest at Fontainebleau (as at Windsor and other English domains) affords an uninterrupted course, and is in reality a kind of

FONTAINEBLEAU

neglected park, with the difference that the trees are thicker and the animals are untamed. We could now understand how in olden days it was the sport of kings to follow the chase in these forests on horseback. We halted for a few minutes in the middle of the Forest to view the famous oak tree, only half of which is still standing, proudly defying the elements after a life of over a thousand years. We purchased, at a shop just opposite, some souvenirs made from the wood of the tree, and then resumed our journey.

Fontainebleau is regarded as one of the most healthy towns in France, being one of the few places to escape the ravages of plague when the rest of the country was lying at its mercy. Its popularity as a summer resort is attested by the fact that the normal population of 14,000 is more than doubled in the summer season. The palace awakened many memories. As the abode of kings in bygone years, it recalled the days when France was under monarchical rule and the Court reigned here in stately splendour. The stay of the French President here at various times is an interesting link with the past, and demonstrates the truism that even Republicanism and Democracy are not impervious to glamour.

The palace does not boast of a very magnificent façade, but its interior is as luxurious as the civilisation and wealth of the day could make it. Everything is so well preserved that

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one could almost trace the whole course of the nation's history in the relics displayed to view. I was impressed by the clocks in almost every case keeping exact time after so long a period. I was shown round the chapel, where Mary Queen of Scots was married to the Dauphin of France, and saw the impression made on the table by Napoleon when he passionately struck it with a candlestick after signing his abdication. We also saw the room where the unhappy Empress Josephine recited her divorce formulae, and other rooms used by the Emperor. In his bedroom we noticed the cradle of his infant son, the "King of Rome." I was charmed with the large library hall of Charles V., which is looked after with the greatest care. Then we passed through the rooms of Louis IX., Henry II., Louis XIII., Francis I., and Louis XIV. The ball-room built by Henry II., which commands a view of the palace gardens and the Forest, is a charming example of the progress of art and architecture of that period. In this room, we were told, were innumerable pictures of Henry II.'s mistress in various dresses and poses. The rooms of Louis XIV. are richly decorated with wonderful paintings. Amongst other things we were delighted to see the splendid porcelain and artistic tapestries, which do credit to the ingenuity of the artist. The work entailed in the making of the tapestries is very trying, and we were told that no man can remain at it for

THE HISTORIC PALACE

more than an hour and a half at a time. The blending of one shade of colour with another in the representation of a beautiful scene was marvellous to behold. The tapestries are so delicately woven that sometimes it is difficult not to mistake them for paintings.

The rooms where Napoleon kept the Pope virtually a prisoner for the best part of six months, in order to "induce" him to sign an abdication of his temporal power in favour of the Emperor's infant son, recalled to my mind how Napoleon was ahead of his time. It was not yet to be. The Holy See was deprived of its temporal power about three-quarters of a century later, when Italy became a united nation. Finally, we passed through a gallery adorned with illuminated tablets illustrating many historical scenes. We left the palace by the flight of stairs, and were pointed out the step from which Napoleon bade "Adieu!" to his favourite Guards on the eve of his departure for Elba.

Apart from the beautiful furniture, pictures, and tapestries, the palace at Fontainebleau did not greatly appeal to me. Everywhere in Europe, however, I could not fail to note the reverence that is paid to past associations and tradition. To the Eastern mind all these things are interesting, but they fail to stir the feelings and imagination as they would were they concerned with incidents with which we are more closely connected.

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The fair city of Versailles stands about 450 feet above sea-level, and in fine weather the glittering spires and some of the buildings of Paris twelve miles westward can be seen. The stately palace is surrounded by lovely gardens and a picturesque park five miles in extent. It is adorned with beautiful statues, and there is a wealth of trees, some cut in fantastic shapes. Versailles is famous for its fountains. As the playing of them entails large expenditure of money, they are only set going once or twice a year, and then people flock in numbers to view the pretty spectacle. The largest fountain has bronze statues on its sides representing the principal rivers of France.

The palace itself, which occupies the site of a hunting-box of Louis XIII., was erected by his successor. Boasting one of the most imposing façades in the world, its interior is brilliantly decorated and sumptuously furnished, it would be a fitting abode for any great ruler. It was from here that in the great Revolution Louis XVI. was almost forcibly taken to Paris, never to return to this luxurious home. The rooms and furniture stand exactly as they did when its exalted occupants were in residence there. Napoleon was very much attached to the palace, and some portions of it were decorated and furnished by him. The Napoleonic rooms contain some of the most magnificent pictures in the whole of France; indeed, the collection ranks as one of the most beautiful in the world.

VERSAILLES

I especially admired a pillar of porcelain illustrating the achievements of Napoleon, and presented to him at the time of his second marriage. There are also pictures of the famous generals of Napoleon. The ceilings throughout are beautifully painted by the master artists of the time.

A handsome apartment is the gallery of battles, which originally comprised seventeen rooms for the accommodation of the princes at Court, and now forms a hall of huge length. This gallery contains some very fine pictures representing the greatest battles of France from the earliest to comparatively recent times, including Napoleon's victories.

Close by are the sumptuous rooms of the queens of France. In one of these apartments nineteen princes of the Royal blood were born. The halls are embellished with artistic decorations, and rich paintings adorn the ceilings. Passing into the red and blue libraries we saw the door through which the unfortunate Marie Antoinette made her escape to her husband's room before the mob could be pacified on the fall of the Bastille. We next viewed the charming ball-room, and the "Hall of Mirrors," where William I. was declared Emperor of Germany in 1870.

Exquisitely beautiful were the set of rooms associated with the memory of Louis XIV., who in his time was the greatest ruler in Europe. The ceilings are gorgeously decorated

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with paintings of classical deities, after whom the rooms are named Apollo, Mercury, Diana, Venus, Mars, and Hercules. They are most sumptuously decorated and furnished. The chamber where the treaty recognising the independence of the American States was signed recalled that memorable struggle and the assistance rendered by French soldiers. Visitors are shown the chair Franklin used when the treaty was concluded. In another apartment the War of Spanish Succession was declared. The throne-room, a superb chamber, was originally ornamented with the solid gold throne of Louis XIV. We were further shown the bed on which he breathed his last. The lovely tapestries of these apartments rank amongst the finest in the world.

Finally, we visited the chapel, on the ceiling of which is a majestic painting representing "The Glory of God." We were told that the artist took two and a half years to complete this work, and finally went mad owing to the strain of performing it in the unnatural position of lying on his back on high scaffolding. This chapel has beautiful oak doors, carved in elaborate design. A special service is held here when the President is elected, his attendance being one of his first official acts.

CHAPTER IV

THE HOME OF THE GREAT NAPOLEON

ON the day of our visit to Malmaison, after we had proceeded about seven miles from Paris in a beautiful country full of historic memories, we passed through the small village of Rueil, and saw the tombs of the Empress Josephine and her daughter Hortense in the simple local church built by Richelieu, the famous Cardinal. Two miles' further ride brought us in sight of the small, unpretentious house of Malmaison, the residence of Josephine after her divorce. When reading Abbot's *Life of Napoleon*, I had pictured the embodiment of wifehood in Josephine. Unfortunately, however, my vision was shattered when I became acquainted with the historical facts about Josephine before her marriage to Napoleon, and after divorce.

The building at Malmaison was originally a hospital, and Napoleon bought and furnished it when he came to stay here as the First Consul. He is known to have often confessed that the happiest time of his life was spent in this small house. The aesthetic sense was well developed

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both in Napoleon and in Josephine, and the decorations in this house do credit to their taste. Here was the scene of Josephine's death, and we were shown in one of the rooms the bed on which she passed away. The drawing-room contains the beautiful golden plate presented to Napoleon by the city of Paris. We were pleased to see the library of Napoleon, which is kept in splendid preservation. We hurried through the billiard- and drawing-rooms, which in every way correspond with the other small but luxurious apartments. Josephine's rooms are very tastefully decorated with fine tapestries. The music-room is still arranged as when used by its unfortunate occupant. In one of the apartments some of the clothes of the Empress and her daughter are kept. Josephine's bedroom contains some fine work by her own hand. We also had a look at the small museum, mainly consisting of mementoes of the great soldier.

The rooms of Napoleon are very small, but comfortable. They contain an exact model of his camp-bed, and, among other pieces of furniture, the lighting apparatus that always accompanied him in every campaign. In his sitting-room we noticed Josephine's workbox, a coronation present, containing, among other trinkets, a very beautiful miniature of her husband. In one of the rooms is some of the furniture which Napoleon had with him at Elba. We also had a peep at the apartment

NAPOLEON'S AMBITIONS

occupied by Hortense, and descended the stairs to leave the house. We were then told that it was from here that Napoleon fled precipitately, ultimately to surrender himself to the English. The place was looted after his departure by the army of Blücher. But many years later the Empress Eugénie, who still survives in retirement near London, spent nearly half a million sterling in tracing and buying articles missing from the house, and rearranged them as in the time of the great Bonaparte.

When I was shown the place where Napoleon's foot rested on French soil for the last time (the exact spot being marked at the time by his daughter placing a rose on the ground), I could not but pause for a while to reflect on the brilliant career of the great soldier, and the sudden breakdown of all his cherished hopes. First I pitied the vanity of one who, admittedly great, nevertheless failed to realise the limitations of humanity and the fickleness of fortune. How he must have been blinded by ambition and self-confidence when he thought of defying the whole of Europe single-handed, and finally failed, as every attempt to do away with the liberties of nations is ultimately bound to fail. Then I thought of the lust of power of this man of strength, determination, and tremendous energy. It was not enough for him to make France the first nation on the European continent, and himself at her helm as Consul for life ; he must be Emperor. Nor

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was he content to rest here. He must needs establish a line of his own, and therefore humiliate the house of Austria by making her surrender a princess of their blood to be his second wife. Setting the whole Continent at defiance, he courted the attack of combined Europe. He was not satisfied with his own vast power; he made his brothers kings and generals, though their sway was bound to collapse at the fall of its main support.

Even Europe was not a sufficient field for his marvellous activities. He dreamt of possessing a glorious Empire in the East, and strove right earnestly to achieve his ends. He negotiated with Tipoo, Sultan of Mysore, to subvert the British advance in India. That tyrant even enrolled himself in a Republican club as "Citizen Tipoo." But Napoleon was anticipated by his implacable enemies, the English. The fall of Tipoo, and his own rebuff at Acre, abruptly shattered his pretensions in this direction. After the defeat of Napoleon the British were free once more to pursue their legitimate destiny on the Indian continent.

It is interesting to speculate what might have happened if Napoleon had waited to consolidate the acquisitions of France after he had raised her again to the position of a first-class Power, and then started on his further schemes of conquest. How much could have been achieved by this giant with his power of application, his administrative and military genius, his stubborn

NAPOLEON'S DESIGNS ON INDIA

courage and bull-dog tenacity! But his ambition made him blind to the principle of the balance of power, which his enemies had fully appreciated and gauged at its true value. He tried to make everything French, thus stirring up the whole of Europe, and providing for the English prompt and willing allies. They adjusted the balance of power and held their own in the end; and down came Napoleon, bringing in his fall all that depended upon him. I cannot but wonder what course Indian history might have taken if the idea of Lord Cornwallis in reference to the balance of power had been understood and taken up by the then rulers of Hindustan. Lacking the statesmanlike sagacity and political foresight of their European contemporaries, they were unable to appreciate the wisdom of, and follow, such a policy. If they had only guided their affairs with an eye to this doctrine the British would not have found their task so comparatively easy. The French failed to dominate India, amongst many other important reasons, because at the time the Indian States were more ready to help each other than the rival European Powers. But no sooner had the Mahratta Confederacy and the Nizam's Court ceased to be guided by wise heads like Nana Phadnarvis and others, than the one remained neutral and the other lent active support to compass the fall of Tipoo. Within three years the independence of the Mahratta Confederacy received a rude shock, and within two decades it was totally destroyed.

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One happy result, however, was the preservation of a large number of smaller States.

To an Indian mind trained in Kshattriya ideals, the surrender of Napoleon does not appeal quite favourably. Death on the battle-field would have been a more fitting end to his glorious but unfortunate career. He had lost so much already that life was scarcely worth the trouble of keeping, at so humiliating a cost. The end of his contemporary and supposed ally, Tipoo of Mysore, can be pointed to as a striking contrast. Tipoo knew, long before he fell with his faithful followers, that all was lost. He would have fared better at the hands of the English than Napoleon did. But that courageous tiger never thought of surrendering ignominiously to his conquerors, and fell (fighting, sword in hand) in the gates of Seringapatam. The Rajputs, the worthy representatives of Indian chivalry, would have held the surrender of Napoleon up to scorn. True, by this act Napoleon saved some of his soldiers; but what of those few when he had never felt a qualm as he led his armies to charge the exterminating, fire-emitting cannon of his enemies on many a hard-fought field?

The interesting fact may be noted that the illustrious British general who ultimately vanquished Napoleon, the terror of Europe, received his first lessons in military strategy on the plains of India, a great number of his battles being fought with the Mahrattas.

CHAPTER V

PARIS AND ITS PLEASURES

PARIS has been described as "the home of the gorgeous and gay," and the pleasure-loving spirit is certainly everywhere apparent. The French are naturally vivacious and light-hearted, and the visitor to the capital is early impressed by the fact, for no one seems to take life very seriously. Pleasure-seeking appears to be the dominating pursuit in this bright city by the Seine. The artistic instincts of the people, and their love of the beautiful in nature and art, are also everywhere in evidence. The broad, expansive boulevards, whose symmetrical design I greatly admired, were seen to perfection at the time of our visit, when the trees by which they are graced were unfolding their leafy charm.

To Indians debarred by caste from taking their meals in public, the sight of people having their refreshment in the open seemed at first unbecoming. Nevertheless, one soon became used to the spectacle of the open-air cafés. Customers sipping their coffee or wine sit and watch the

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tide of passers-by, while the promenaders stroll along and listen to the music floating in the air—for every considerable café has its orchestra. Large cities have much in common, and there was nothing new in the crowds of people hurrying to business in the morning, and the leisurely groups giving themselves up to enjoyment in the evening. It is the natural ebb and flow of life characteristic of every European centre.

The multiplicity of amusements was almost bewildering in its variety, and one wondered how the people could afford to support so many picture-palaces, theatres, music-halls, and other haunts of pleasure. A visit to the handsome Opera House was somewhat of a revelation. In a strongly democratic country one did not expect to find so much fashion and aristocracy. The presence of military on duty struck me as somewhat unusual, and I wondered whether it was due to any inability of the police to deal with possible disturbers or to a desire to impart spectacular effect—for the love of display is as strong under republican as under monarchical rule.

I was charmed with the pictures of old masters and other works of art displayed in the Louvre; and the miniatures I especially admired. The pictures and statuary at Luxembourg were no less interesting, corresponding with the exhibits in the British Royal Academy. In the former place, which is practically the Museum (almost as large as the British Museum), the jewels are very finely cut and set, and their

NOTRE DAME AND THE PANTHEON

value is enormous. The story goes that they were looted at the time of the Revolution, and afterwards discovered concealed in the roof of a house in Paris during its demolition. The jewels, which include some beautiful diamonds, vases of alabaster, and richly jewelled sword-hilts, are constantly guarded and kept in an ingenious case which, when touched, automatically collapses and descends to the safe below.

We were shown the site of the Bastille, which for many years was a fortress for the defence of Paris, and was also used as a State prison. Its fall when attacked by the populace in 1789 was the signal for the inauguration of the great French Revolution. A column bearing the names of the six hundred or so persons who took part in the attack is now erected on the spot. Notre Dame, the great cathedral, much impressed me, the façade and flanking towers being very fine. The church suffered greatly during the Revolution and again at the time of the Commune; nevertheless it presents a noble appearance, and is a landmark for miles around.

A commanding building is the Pantheon. Built by Louis XV. on the site of the old church which was dedicated to Geneviève, the patron saint of Paris, in 1792 it was converted into a Pantheon, or temple of fame, to serve as the final resting-place for the illustrious sons of France. Twice was it again changed into a church, but since 1885 it has been used solely as a mausoleum. The interior is adorned with

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historical and traditionary pictures. In the centre stands the plaster model of a statue representing the revolutionary movement, the marble work being now in progress. A picture above illustrates the prophecy of France being saved by two women, Geneviève and Joan of Arc. The frescoes depicting the history of Joan of Arc are of fine workmanship, the blending of so many colours being artistically accomplished. In the dome, 272 ft. in height, the pendulum experiment was undertaken to prove the revolution of the earth on its own axis. In the vaults below we were shown the tombs of Mirabeau, Marat, Voltaire, and Rousseau.

Another striking building we visited was the Hôtel des Invalides. Originally erected by Louis XIV. in 1671, it was afterwards restored and enlarged by Napoleon I. and Napoleon III. It was intended to provide a home for five thousand wounded soldiers, and I was surprised to find that about only a hundred are now living there. The splendid church is divided into two parts, the magnificent high altar, with its golden light streaming through the stained glass windows, standing in the centre. The old unaltered part, decorated with the captured battle-flags, serves as the place of worship for these soldiers now, while under the noble dome of the other half, which with its stately pillars forms a landmark in the neighbouring country, repose the remains of Napoleon, enclosed in a massive marble sarcophagus (the gift of the Czar) raised

NAPOLEON'S TOMB

aloft on a dais of the same stone in a circular open crypt, guarded by twelve statues of pure white marble representing the most notable victories of Napoleon. The remains were brought to France in 1840, but finally interred here after some years, as the crypt was not ready to receive them. The door leading to the crypt is made of bronze melted from the cannon captured by Napoleon at the battle of Austerlitz. In one of the side chambers are buried the remains of Napoleon's brother and some of his famous generals. We had also a look at the gun-carriage which brought the great Emperor's coffin to Paris. In an adjoining chamber we saw the stone that rested over the body of Napoleon at St. Helena, the famous mask taken within twenty hours after his death, his gorgeous coronation robes, and finally the pall that covered his coffin.

We afterwards glanced through the museum attached to the building. One chamber contained the colours and other interesting relics of the battle-fields of the famous French victories ; in a second chamber were kept the guns used from the earliest times ; while another formed a fine armoury for spears and swords. A single floor was devoted to a collection of figures illustrating the various uniforms of the French Army. In another room were arranged models of reviews and famous camps and sieges of the French. A floor was devoted to the splendid military presents to French Kings sent from all

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parts of the world, Napoleon being the recipient of a great number of them. Finally, before departing, we noticed a life-size statue of Napoleon in the central balcony of the courtyard, standing erect in marshal's uniform.

An ascent of the famous Eiffel Tower afforded an excellent bird's-eye view of the picturesque city below, which, seen through coloured glasses or a telescope, presented a fascinating appearance. Conspicuous in the panorama could be discerned the famous Arc de Triomphe, one of the most magnificent triumphal arches in the world, while east of the Tuileries was the curious Cleopatra's Needle on a site formerly occupied by the guillotine, where Louis XVI. and his unfortunate Queen were beheaded. Several hundred members of the French aristocracy, without distinction of sex or age, were here put to death, and as I gazed upon the spot I was unable to restrain the reflection of the mutations of earthly power ; and that life may be as insecure under a Republic as under a Tamerlane or the worst of Manchu rulers.

One feature of Paris which appeals strongly to the visitor is the purity and clearness of the atmosphere, compared with other large European cities. The beautiful statues and monuments and handsome buildings which render Paris, architecturally, second to no other city in the world, stand out in bold outline, and are visible from a long distance. The atmospheric brightness contrasts strongly with the gloom

ARTISTIC PARIS

of London. But the British metropolis would not appear to disadvantage if there were less smoke there. Many of its streets are very fine, and bear comparison with those of Paris.

As becomes its importance as the capital of France, Paris has no lack of educational facilities. The University I found to be quite different from those at Oxford and Cambridge, for it contains no residential colleges. The cost of living, it may be noted, is less, and if there were not the obstacle of a new language in their way, Indian students could largely go there. But it is doubtful whether that course would be on the whole beneficial to them.

At the annual horse show and exhibition at the Hippodrome we saw some very fair horsemanship, together with a good display of saddlery, accoutrements, etc. In fact, almost everything pertaining to the horse and its usefulness was to be seen. There were also on view some paintings of famous military horses and riders. An English exhibition would probably have been more businesslike; but here utility was subordinated to the artistic sense. One could not fail to note how attractive these functions are made by the French. Elaborate restaurants are fitted up, and everything possible is done to cater for the material needs and comfort of patrons.

By the courtesy of the British Embassy we were enabled to pay a visit to the Chamber of Deputies. We saw the Chamber under very

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favourable circumstances, for the vexed question of raising the period of conscription from two to three years was under consideration. The place was crowded, and, there being space for only a limited number of visitors, we had to take our turn. It proved quite a tiring business, and as we had to pass through several apartments, and be scrutinised by many officials, some time elapsed before we reached the Chamber itself. If it were a matter of protecting a king, one could understand so much care being taken, but for a popular administrative body to be so rigidly guarded seemed an irony of fate. All this precaution, however, was rendered necessary owing to the propaganda of the Terrorists.

On admission, we were accommodated in the gallery, and, although at a distance, we were able to watch events and hear the proceedings, which did not strike me as very dignified. The Chamber resembled an amphitheatre, and reminded one somewhat of pictures of the Roman forum, the presiding deputy occupying the chair near the centre, and the members coming up to the platform to address the assembly. Only selected persons from each party were allowed to speak, but all seemed to have the right to disturb by interruptions. Members became very excited as the debate proceeded, feeling ran high, and confusion reigned. There were frequent squabbles, and, although the Chairman cried himself hoarse several times, very little heed was paid to him. In fact, little

THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

or no respect was shown to the Chair, and the bell was often rung for order in vain. Though there was a good deal of life and movement and reality in the proceedings, it looked more like a parliamentary election in progress than a meeting of responsible representatives of a large and powerful nation. As an Oriental, imbued with the spirit of decorum, I was not favourably impressed with the French mode of conducting public business; but we probably saw the deputies at their worst.

Paris is, of course, intimately bound up with the great historic movements of France. Wherever one goes, three names are heard—Napoleon, Joan of Arc, and St. Geneviève; but Napoleon is the dominating hero. Whatever may be said of this brilliant adventurer, he certainly instituted many great reforms which have made France in some ways an example to civilisation.

The journey from Paris to Calais was not eventful. The route mainly lay through flat country, but as we neared the French seaport a few hills were visible, and afterwards the outline of tall chimneys came into view, showing Calais to be a busy manufacturing town as well as the chief centre of communication between France and England.

When we crossed the Channel the sea was not rough, and we were spared the pains of *mal de mer*. In a short time we were able to discern the white cliffs of Dover, with its fine

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old Castle looking proudly over the Channel from its lofty eminence. As we landed I felt that we had come to our second home; and this feeling was confirmed by later experience. We had read and heard of so many places, and had seen pictures of so much in Great Britain, that every now and then we came across objects that seemed to be quite familiar. I could scarcely have said as much of India, except, perhaps, of my own Presidency.

CHAPTER VI

THE METROPOLIS OF EMPIRE

Oh ! gleaming lamps of London
That gem the city's crown,
What fortunes lie within you,
Oh ! lights of London town.
G. R. SIMS.

THE train ride to London was through fertile country, pleasantly undulating and richly timbered. Kent is known as the "Garden of England," owing to its rich soil and wealth and variety of crops. Vast fields of hops, which we afterwards had the opportunity of visiting, afford employment when the flowers are ripe for picking for hundreds of men, women, and children. The plants are trained on poles about ten feet in height, and the hops, which are used in the manufacture of beer, are picked in the late summer. They are carefully dried and afterwards packed tightly in sacks for the market.

We put up in London at Bailey's Hotel, in the vicinity of Hyde Park, where our stay was rendered very comfortable. The infinite variety and charm of London, the largest and richest city in the world, would require the pen of a

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master-hand to describe. Life is on so vast a scale that it is at first bewildering to the stranger within its gates. Through Indian eyes, London strikes one mostly as being a huge business centre, a veritable hive swarming with activities.

Here, indeed, is the pivot of the universe ; for London is more cosmopolitan than Paris or New York ; its denizens are drawn from all quarters of the globe. Although its five or six million souls are mainly Britishers, representatives of every nation, colour, and creed are to be met with in its miles upon miles of streets—for racial distinctions, as such, are largely unrecognised within its hospitable borders.

There is here congregated such an endless mass of human life that the visitor becomes insignificant in his own eyes ; he loses his individuality ; he is a mere unit, a bubble as it were, on this immense sea of existence. The imagination is stirred by the stately buildings, the numberless motor-buses, taxi-cabs, and vehicles of all descriptions in the spacious roadways ; and, on the wide pavements, the ever-moving throng of men, women, and children, mostly well dressed, some of anxious mien, hastening along as if charged with some grave mission, and others strolling light-heartedly and looking at the attractive shops, which are a bright feature of London life.

Perhaps the most advantageous point from which to view the mighty metropolis is from the balustrade of one of the fine bridges which

LONDON FROM THE RIVER

span the river Thames at frequent intervals. Here can be gained a bird's-eye view of the busy, throbbing city and its numerous landmarks. When I read at college in India Wordsworth's graphic and glowing picture of London in his famous sonnet on Westminster Bridge at early morning I could only dimly comprehend it ; but when I actually saw the scene with my own eyes I caught something of the poet's inspiration, and fully appreciated this vivid picture of London and its beauty.

My first personal call in London was at the India Office, where, on presenting my letters of introduction, I was very courteously received by the Earl of Crewe, the Permanent Under-Secretary, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, and members of the Council. I had a long conversation with Lord Crewe, and also chatted with the high permanent officials, and even those of them who had not visited India showed familiarity with her affairs. I also took an early opportunity of seeing the Princes of Kolohapur, who with their companions are being educated at a private school at Hendon, in a picturesque house which is rendered historic by the fact that it was visited for a few days by Queen Elizabeth ; she is said to have planted a tree there, which I saw.

It was from the London flying grounds at Hendon that I afterwards had my first aerial trip, in a biplane. It was a novel and thrilling experience as one rose in the air, and although I

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must confess to a trifling nervousness on starting, this feeling soon gave way to one of confidence. The people below looked like a colony of ants when the machine soared higher and higher towards cloudland, and the vast expanse of London unfolded itself like a panorama. The descent was as successful as the ascent, much to the relief of the Rani, who somewhat anxiously awaited the end of my adventure.

Sight-seeing in London is quite an ordeal. There is so much to attract attention that it would require months to make even a casual acquaintance with the manifold treasures and objects of interest that Modern Babylon contains. "What a fine city to sack!" an American magnate is said to have exclaimed as he surveyed the capital from the summit of St. Paul's Cathedral. And certainly few cities in the world can boast so much wealth and splendour. The Cathedral itself is a heritage of which any nation might well feel proud. Completed in 1675 by Sir Christopher Wren on the site of the old cathedral which was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666, its cost was defrayed by levying a tax on coal. Its most conspicuous feature is the immense dome, surmounted by a huge ball and cross, the latter nearly four hundred feet above the ground. Amongst its mighty dead Nelson and Wellington are interred close together. Many other of England's famous men have found a resting-place in Westminster Abbey, a magnificent pile, originally built by King

THE CITY CORPORATION

Edward the Confessor, and finished just in time for William the Conqueror's coronation. Many kings and queens lie buried here, as well as poets, statesmen, and warriors, amongst them the bearers of names familiar in Indian history. Nearly all the English monarchs, including our present King-Emperor, were crowned within its ancient walls.

Another building of unfailing interest to visitors is the ancient Guildhall, famous for its great civic functions and receptions to foreign rulers and other distinguished persons. An excellent museum and art gallery and public library adjoin the Guildhall, and are open to the public free ; all these places are really worth careful study. Close by is the Mansion House, the official residence of the Lord Mayor during his year of office, constructed at a cost of £70,000.

It is worthy of note, in passing, that the Corporation of the City possesses certain privileges in the matter of local government, by reason of its ancient traditions. It is, for all purposes except main drainage, education, and one or two matters, the sole local governing body within the square mile which comprises the City proper. Distinct also from other parts of London, it has its own police and its own courts of justice, and it has a monopoly of all markets within seven miles of its boundaries. The remainder of the capital is divided into twenty-eight boroughs, each with its mayor,

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

with the London County Council as the central body. I attended one of the weekly meetings of the London County Council, on which each borough has elected representatives. The County Hall in which the meetings are held is a semi-circular building, similar to the Chamber of Deputies in Paris. I was interested to find that there were several women members, and to hear of the good work women are doing, not only as members of county councils but also of boards of guardians, on which their co-operation has proved valuable, especially in the care of children and sick poor in workhouses and infirmaries.

The chief spectacle of the year in the life of the City is the Lord Mayor's Show, which we had an opportunity of seeing towards the end of our stay. I had previously witnessed the homage paid to royalty, and it was with no small interest, not to say curiosity, that I followed the triumphal progress of the new Lord Mayor as he passed through the gaily decorated city streets and received the acclamation of his fellow-citizens. The procession from the Mansion House to the Law Courts, where the new civic chief was sworn in, was of a gorgeous character, the most conspicuous feature being the magnificent gilded mayoral coach drawn by four horses and headed by a detachment of mounted Life Guards with their band. The ancient City companies and guilds, with their banners borne aloft, made a brave show. The tercentenary of the founding of the New River Company was appropriately

THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

marked by a reproduction of certain features of the Lord Mayor's Show three hundred years ago, the River Giant, a huge figure twelve feet high, being led by a tiny knight in silver armour. The symbolism was intended to represent the completion of the New River scheme of water supply for London, which was considered a marvel of enterprise for that age. The main portion of the Show, and the most popular section with the spectators, was the military and naval display. This was provided chiefly by the various territorial regiments connected with the City, and by various cadet corps and boy scouts, sea scouts, and lads' brigades. The lads marched in stalwart fashion, many of them headed by their own bands, and they afforded a striking and impressive illustration of the excellent training which is being given to the rising generation in England. The vast crowds of sight-seers lining the entire route deepened my conviction that the love of pageantry is as strong amongst Westerners as it is in the East.

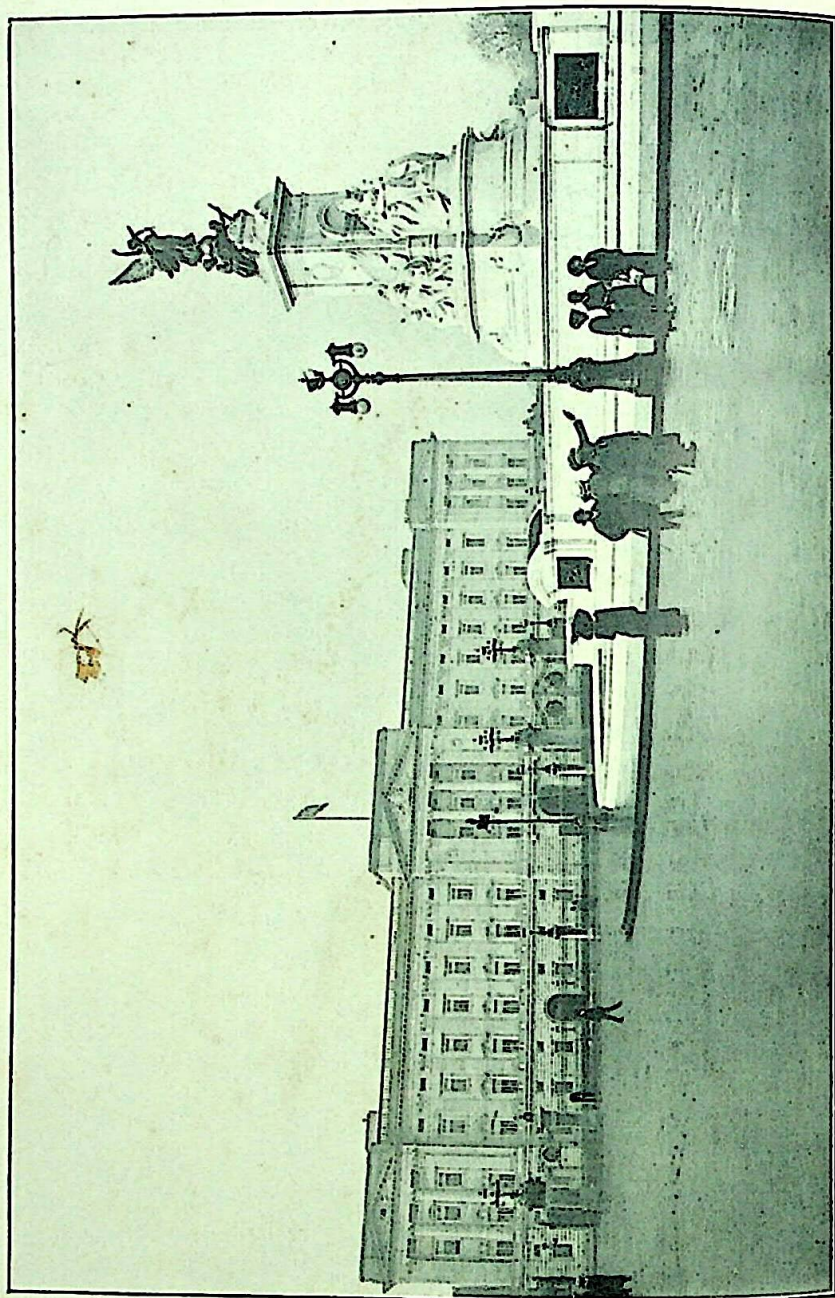
A visit to Bow Street Police Court, the leading court of summary jurisdiction in the metropolis, enabled me to obtain a first glimpse of English judicial methods. Seated, without official dress, at a raised desk in front of a small library of law books, the magistrate disposed of the various cases brought before him with business-like despatch, no time being wasted in the hearing of superfluous evidence. Pointing

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to the prisoner's dock, when the court had adjourned, one of the officials remarked, "Some of the best, as well as some of the worst, have passed through there." I asked the name of the best man who had thus got within the clutches of the law, and the reply came quickly, "Dr. Jameson," who was there in connection with the historic raid in the Transvaal.

I gladly availed myself of an opportunity to attend a sitting of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The room was unpretentious, and the proceedings were of an informal nature. The business mainly comprises the hearing of appeals from India and the other oversea dominions, and decisions are technically reserved for the Sovereign to determine, the Court acting only as advisers.





BUCKINGHAM PALACE AND THE QUEEN VICTORIA MEMORIAL.

CHAPTER VII

ROUND ABOUT LONDON

WE had several enjoyable trips to places of interest on the outskirts of the metropolis. The Royal Gardens of Kew greatly pleased me. Situated on the banks of the Thames, they are beautifully laid out with winding walks, artistic flower-beds, conservatories, and wide-stretching lawns, the idea being to make this the home of all the plants that grow within the borders of the British Empire the world over. One sees, indeed, the harmoniously combined beauties of all parts of the earth—the marriage of the tropics with the arctics, as it were—and a beautiful object-lesson is presented of Nature's limitless resources. An immense glass palm-house stands in the centre of the grounds, and beneath its vast roof may be seen the fan-leaved trees of the Pacific Islands, the spice trees and banyan of India, the cotton and the indigo plant. In front is an artificial lake, upon which swans gracefully glide, and, close by, approached by a few descending steps, is the rockery, where mountain flowers bloom. A Japanese garden

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and a towering pagoda give an Oriental touch to the gay scene. The gardens are open free to the public, and they attract over one million visitors annually.

On another occasion we paid a visit to Woolwich Arsenal, a Government gun factory, where over twelve thousand men are usually employed making modern engines of destruction. We saw the guns in process of manufacture, held by huge cranes, and one could not but reflect upon the heavy toll of human life they were capable of exacting. In striking contrast was our visit to the world-famous Greenwich Observatory, which has been the scene of so many scientific discoveries. From its eminence the River Thames could be seen winding its peaceful course in either direction, and to the west the glass roof of the Crystal Palace—memento of the first great international exhibition, whose object was to strengthen the ties of friendship between the nations of the world.

Another pleasant trip was provided by a visit to Sandhurst College, where candidates for commissions in the Army receive their military education, and through which many of the officers of the Political Department in India have passed. We were conducted over the building with its spacious grounds and riding school. The college is divided into six companies, each of which has its own separate classes. A sound training is provided, and we

STATE BALL

were informed that a great improvement in this direction has taken place in recent years. Formerly admission was obtained by nomination, but it is now by examination, for which on the last occasion, it is said, there were only as many candidates as there were vacancies.

The London season was at its height during our stay, and, receiving numerous invitations to various functions, we were privileged to participate in quite a round of gaieties. I attended the King's levée at St. James's Palace, at which many Indians were present ; but by far the most brilliant event was the State ball at Buckingham Palace. The scene was one of surpassing splendour, and certainly the finest I have ever witnessed. Although accustomed to jewels, as an Indian, I was struck by the rare beauty and lustre of the gems that were worn, while the superb dresses of the ladies and the gorgeous military and court uniforms gave a wealth of colour and vivacity to the scene, quite unusual in this part of the world. The strictest decorum was observed, and the presence of their Majesties the King and Queen gave a solemn splendour to the magnificent throng.

On several subsequent occasions we had opportunities of seeing their Majesties, notably at the review of the Brigade of Guards in Hyde Park, and of the Household Cavalry at Windsor (where the fine bearing and smart manœuvres of the flower of the British Army greatly impressed me), and also at Ascot races, where the King

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SHRI JAGADGURU VISHWARADHYA

JIJA SIMHASAN JNANAMANDIR

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Jangamawadi Math, Varanasi

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

and Queen were present in the Royal enclosure. The day was marred by a tragic incident. A woman displaying suffragette colours threw herself in front of the King's horse, and sustained injuries from which she died. We afterwards saw the funeral procession of the victim, which was attended by hundreds of supporters of the Votes for Women movement, and attracted thousands of spectators as it passed through the London streets to the railway station prior to the burial service in Scotland.

Garden parties are very popular fixtures in the summer months, and we were present at the one given by the Prime Minister, which was attended by a very large number of guests representative of every phase of the national life, and at another held by the Earl and Countess of Jersey at their picturesque seat, Osterley Park. Another pleasant invitation took me to the Northbrook Club, on the occasion of a complimentary dinner to Lord Sydenham on his return from the Bombay Governorship, the company also including Lord Amphill, ex-Governor of Madras (who presided), Lord Reay, and Lord Lamington. At an evening party given by Mr. and Mrs. Ratan Tata we met the Yuvaraj of Mysore and many Anglo-Indians, and spent a very enjoyable time. Social calls formed a by no means small part of our programme. We visited Lord and Lady Reay, Lord and Lady Lamington, and Lord and Lady Sydenham, who afterwards came to see us, and we were

AN EMPIRE GATHERING

glad to meet again such old and esteemed friends as Sir Charles and Lady Olivant and Sir John and Lady Muir-Mackenzie, of whom in their Indian days we retained very pleasant memories. I also visited Mr. T. J. Bennett, C.I.E., the chief proprietor of the *Times of India*, with whom I had an interesting conversation respecting the position of the Deccani Brahmans.

One of the proud moments of my life was when I attended a reception and dinner given by Captain and Mrs. Boyd-Carpenter at the Connaught Rooms in honour of the High Commissioners, Agents-General, and visitors from the overseas dominions. Under the happy inspiration of the genial host and hostess this entertainment has developed into an annual event, which forms one of the most important social and political functions of the London season. The gathering was at once impressive and unique, and no parallel with it could perhaps be found in any other city in the world. Here were assembled the distinguished representatives of Great Britain's colonies and dependencies in all parts of the universe, and as I mixed with the friendly throng and listened to the patriotic and fervent speeches I realised the sentiment contained in Tennyson's immortal lines :

Britain's myriad voices call—
Sons, be welded, each and all,
Into one Imperial whole,
One with Britain, heart and soul :
One life, one flag, one fleet, one Throne.

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It was indeed pleasing to note how strong and sincere is the friendship which binds the Motherland with her far-flung dominions. Sympathy, affection, and unity formed the keynote of the whole proceedings. Early in the evening a graceful tribute was paid by Lord Kinnaird to Captain Boyd-Carpenter for organising the reunion, and following speeches by the Right Hon. J. H. Campbell, K.C., M.P., and Sir Pieter Stewart-Bam, who respectively proposed and seconded the toast of His Majesty's overseas dominions, I was unexpectedly called upon to respond. Had I been given the choice, I could certainly have selected no more appropriate occasion to deliver my maiden speech in England. The interest with which I was listened to, and the many congratulations afterwards showered upon me, were ample recompense for an ordeal for which I was quite unprepared. I remarked that although proud of being a subject of the great British Empire, I never realised what it meant until I left my own country ; and I was grateful and proud to be the mouth-piece of my fellow-Indians on this auspicious occasion in voicing their devotion to the British connection. I spoke in much greater detail on this subject in a lecture I was invited to deliver to the East India Association, entitled "What has England done for India?" given at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on 23rd June. I was honoured by the chairmanship of Lord Reay, and by the kind observations of Lord

EXHIBITIONS

Lamington, Sir George Birdwood, Colonel C. E. Yate, M.P., and others; but I need not give details as the lecture and discussion are reproduced in the *Asiatic Quarterly Review* for October 1913.

London may almost be described as the home of exhibitions, for we saw several during our stay there. At Earl's Court there was an attractive United Services Exhibition, organised with the object of popularising the Army and Navy, and to stimulate recruiting. Miniature men-of-war, armoured and hospital trains, military hospitals, and all the paraphernalia of warfare were provided, together with music by the best military bands, a water-chute, and numerous side-shows, while a thrilling representation of a naval bombardment imparted realism to the scene. At Olympia there was an international horse show, with, among other attractions, a fire brigade competition, and subsequently in the same huge hall the annual international motor show. We also saw a horse show at Richmond, which was visited by the King and Queen. Both at Olympia and Richmond there were capital jumping competitions, the Canadian horses being especially well trained, while the Richmond show was of a thoroughly representative character, classes being set apart for hunters, tradesmen's horses, and even the humble but useful donkey. At another horse show at the Ranelagh Club, where there was a fine exhibition of jumping, we also saw a

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

motor polo match. It was remarkable how neatly and swiftly the players were able to turn their cars, which were all of the Ford make.

The President of the French Republic, M. Poincaré, paid a State visit to London during the summer, and was accorded a right royal welcome. The streets for some miles were gaily decked with flags, streamers, mottoes, and triumphal arches were erected in his honour. His routes were densely packed with sight-seers, the whole population seeming to turn out to welcome the illustrious guest.

As England is a democratic country, I expected that the King-Emperor would be looked upon as a kind of hereditary president. It came as an agreeable surprise to me that Britishers instinctively show the same respect for the King and other members of the Royal Family as we Indians do. We pride ourselves on being very loyal, and have the greatest possible regard and reverence for the King-Emperor, but our loyalty is of a negative or passive kind. Submission to His Majesty's orders is instinctive, and every good Indian would lay down his life for the King if called upon to do so. There is not, however, in my country that sense of co-operation with His Majesty that I found in England, where loyalty assumes a more concrete form. In India the nobility or the gentry who have military traditions felt it a duty in olden days to guard the honour and prestige of the King. But the ordinary people

DEVOTION TO THE CROWN

felt then, and still feel, that these are matters for the Almighty or those who are concerned with the management of affairs, and that the authorities may be relied upon to look after things.

In England the people are loyal by sentiment, and their loyalty is active. Wherever the King goes he is heartily acclaimed, and people always talk about him and the Royal Family with great respect. At the conclusion of almost every public function the National Anthem is sung, while in every concert-hall, theatre, or other place of entertainment the performance terminates with the same melody. People rise to their feet, and out of doors men remove their hats when they hear the Anthem ; but I was sorry to note that in some places of amusement a few people did not show the proper decorum in this respect.

CHAPTER VIII

ENGLISH AMUSEMENTS

NAPOLEON dubbed the British a nation of shopkeepers. The "Little Corporal" evidently overlooked their propensity for pleasure, and assuredly would have modified his opinion had he been able, as I have been during my tour, to see the English at play as well as at work. He might then have been led to describe them as a race of sight-seers. Their application to business may be said to be excelled only by their capacity for enjoyment in their hours of leisure.

One has only to be present at a popular cricket or football match to see how thoroughly the Britisher banishes business cares when the time of relaxation comes. Not only in London but in every town and village of the kingdom pleasure reigns among the people on Saturday afternoon (always a workpeople's holiday), when offices, workshops, and factories are closed till Monday morning, and amusement becomes general. Some seek recreation in the parks, where games are provided either without charge or at merely nominal cost, and where

FOOTBALL AND CRICKET

many, if the weather permits, saunter about or sit and read on the seats provided or beneath the shade of the trees. In India people do not lounge about and take things easily in this way ; their only amusement is smoking and chatting with one another. English people have a wider comprehension of enjoyment. They gather in big crowds on these recurring weekly half-holidays to watch cricket, football, tennis, and hockey matches, according to the season. It is not uncommon for as many as a hundred thousand spectators to assemble at a football cup "final."

Some perceive in this phase of life an omen of national decadence, and declare that it would be better for the physique of the multitude to play the game themselves instead of standing and looking idly on. No doubt it would ; and what is said of the labouring class is true in a modified form of the upper classes. It would doubtless be better if instead of standing and watching races, noblemen rode their own horses in place of jockeys—that is, better for themselves, not in many cases for their horses ! There is, of course, no harm whatever in large crowds watching such exhilarating spectacles as a good cricket or football match. I was sorry to learn, however, that the gambling spirit enters to no small extent into these games, to the detriment of genuine and healthy sport. This is an abuse which should be got rid of, and the Government, it is satisfactory to note, has recognised the seriousness of the evil

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by recently strengthening the law relating to betting. This has been welcomed by all right-thinking people. There is nothing to be said in favour of betting, it not only spoils sport (unless sport means mere excitement) but brings many people to ruin.

The love of outdoor exercise seems to be inherent in the British race, and I sincerely wish there could be provided for the people of India such facilities for healthy sport as I saw in England. They would then, perhaps, become less indolent, and their physical and moral fibre would be strengthened. Sport is not only harmless but helpful when rightly used, and the better fits a man to perform his everyday duties. The danger in this, as in all other matters, lies in excess. This leads me to a consideration of the large part that amusement plays in the life of the West. Coming from a poor country like India, and noting the innumerable theatres, music-halls, and picture-palaces, with their nightly throngs of patrons, both in England and on the Continent, I could not resist the conclusion that here there is waste of money, time, and energy which could very well be directed into other channels of a more profitable kind. Evening entertainments are useful to some extent, and may have their value in keeping people away from more questionable forms of recreation, but over-indulgence in them is harmful. The cost of living would be reduced if people went in less for enjoyment. There is work here for a reformer of society.

THE WAY OF HAPPINESS

Europe has yet to learn the golden truth that comfort and happiness come not so much from without as from within. Unless we bring ourselves into the mood in which we can feel the pleasure of a thing, the mere fact of possessing it will not afford the pleasure that we should derive from it. For instance, unless a person is hungry, no amount of flavouring in the dishes will make him relish them; in insomnia, no softness of bed or pillow seems to induce slumber; the most pleasing music is, to a large extent, lost upon one unless he is in a mood to listen.

The young nations of Europe have to learn the truth that real happiness consists rather in reducing necessities to a minimum than in increasing them and endeavouring to gratify every desire. When a craving for one thing is satisfied, a desire springs up for something else, and when that is gained there is a hunger for something still different. My readers will kindly excuse me for digressing into a sermon. What I desire to convey is that after Europe has enjoyed prosperity sufficiently long, the time is bound to come in the natural course when it will realise the truth of the teaching of the Upanishads on this subject.

Some of the recreations of the people, it must be noted, have an educative and refining influence, combining instruction with amusement. Under this category may be mentioned the London "Zoo," which we visited. There

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are, of course, places of this kind in India, but they are not so extensive as in London, nor are they so well organised and managed. We were interested to see for the first time some animals from the colder regions which are unknown in India. We were pleased to notice an Indian bull and a cow—the first we had come across since our departure from the East—while another object that attracted our attention was a mocking-bird, which imitated the human voice remarkably well. The whole collection affords an excellent object-lesson in natural history, and I was informed that during the summer months large parties of school children are taken to the “Zoo” by their teachers for purposes of study.

London has also a wealth of museums, the foremost of them being the British Museum (a veritable treasure-house of national relics and other exhibits, together with a very fine Oriental section), the Wallace Collection of beautiful furniture, paintings, miniatures, china, porcelain, old armour, etc., and the Victoria and Albert Museum, where in the Indian section the addresses and presents made to the King-Emperor and Queen-Empress on the occasion of their visit to the Delhi Durbar are exhibited. Mention may also be made of the Tower of London, which is quite a popular show-place, with its winding staircases and quaint rooms, in one of which the Crown jewels are shown in an iron-barred cage, closely

MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES

guarded. Then there are many permanent picture exhibitions, such as the National Gallery, the Tate Gallery, and the National Portrait Gallery. I must not forget Madame Tussaud's Exhibition, which affords a realistic object-lesson in English history. The Royal groups, with the King and Queen on their thrones, reminded me of the scene at the Delhi Durbar.

Every district in London boasts its free public library and reading-rooms, the latter being a boon not only to the labouring classes, but also the well-to-do, for they are frequented by all grades of people. As affording an antidote to the public-house and an encouragement to the pursuit of higher pleasures, all these institutions are to be welcomed, and I should like to see similar provision in my own country.

Clubs constitute an important feature in the social life of London. In India, save among European residents, these institutions are practically unknown in the sense in which they exist in England. There are Indian clubs in the larger cities like Bombay, but their membership is of a limited character; they are not largely patronised, and beyond affording opportunities for the playing of a few games in the evening, they possess very little significance. In England the clubs of the well-to-do are on a large and comprehensive scale. Not only do they make ample provision for recreation in their comfortable furnished lounges, billiard-rooms, tea- and dining-rooms, and well-stocked libraries and

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writing-rooms, but they also have sumptuously furnished bed- and dressing-rooms, baths, etc., thus combining the conveniences of hotel life with social opportunities. Lectures and other entertainments are given from time to time, and public dinners and other convivial gatherings are held.

The clubs are utilised to the full, and are of very real service, both politically and socially. In the latter capacity they form an agreeable rendezvous for mutual intercourse ; here friends meet and exchange ideas. They prove a useful factor in the creation of a sound body of public opinion ; and those of a political complexion consolidate the sense of unity and increase that mutual knowledge which is essential for keeping together the various members of a political party. How far clubs possess the quality of economy, which is one of the advantages co-operation usually bestows, is a question upon which there is diversity of opinion. At some of the older institutions it is possible to obtain the necessaries and the luxuries of life at a reasonable price similar to the charges that would be made at a moderate hotel ; but in other clubs of a more sumptuous kind the tariff is prohibitive to all but the very well-to-do. Certain clubs have an exclusiveness of their own, such, for instance, as the Carlton, the National Liberal, the Reform, and the Constitutional Clubs, which, as their names imply, cater for those who hold particular views

CLUBS

on public questions. Other phases of society are represented in the Athenaeum, an association of men interested in art, literature, and science ; the Army and Navy, for officers of His Majesty's forces ; the Oxford and Cambridge, devoted to members of those Universities ; the Garrick for the theatrical profession ; and the Royal Yacht and Automobile Clubs, whose purposes are indicated by their titles.

Working men also have their social and political clubs, which are to be found in practically every town and many villages. They are of a very democratic character, and pervaded by an atmosphere of familiarity and freedom which is modified in the more wealthy institutions of this nature.

It is significant of the advance of women in England that several clubs exist for the exclusive use of the sex, among them being the Alexandra Ladies' Club (named after Queen Alexandra, who is a patroness of the institution), the Pioneer Ladies' Club, the Ladies' Army and Navy Club, the Ladies' Athenaeum, and last but not least, at any rate in vigilant activity, the club of the Women's Social and Political Union—better known as the suffragettes. It may be imagined from the foregoing that as social centres, and as instruments for political propaganda, clubs fill a very definite place. Their rapid development in recent years, indeed, is regarded in certain quarters with misgiving, as tending to disturb, if not destroy, the old-

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fashioned family life which for generations has been the pride of England.

Whether club life will ever strike strong root in India remains to be seen. If such should prove to be the case, domestic ties will not be strengthened, for there is very little as it is to attract Indians to their homes, especially where there are no young children. If Indian women were better educated and more domesticated, the amenities of family life would be increased, and clubs would find less justification for their existence.

CHAPTER IX

THE LONDON POLICEMAN

THE fame of the London policeman has spread far and wide, and he is a compelling object of interest to visitors to the British capital. He is depicted on posters and picture post-cards as a tall, strong, well-built man, and enjoys the credit of being the personification of politeness and intelligence. This reputation is by no means undeserved.

With the experience that we have of policemen in India, I looked forward with considerable interest, not to say curiosity, to seeing the London "Bobby" in his ordinary surroundings. I first did so on arrival at Victoria railway station, and stopped for some time to have a good look at him. I had previously seen him at Delhi, where a number of London policemen supervised the regulation of traffic on the occasion of the Royal Coronation Durbar. With an alertness characteristic of the force, the policeman at Victoria station sprang to our assistance, noting we were strangers, and inquired if we were wanting a conveyance. Ordering one for us, he relieved us of further difficulty by instruct-

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ing the cabman where to take us. From the very first, in fact, I invariably found the police of very great assistance. Although their duties are heavy and onerous, they find time to be polite and obliging.

In the courtesy the police show to the public they make no distinction between high or low, rich or poor, should their assistance be required. As an instance, I may mention that one day whilst motoring I saw a policeman standing on the footway when a gentleman in a car pulled up to ask a question. He instinctively sprang to the side of the car, gave the required information, and then returned to the path. Immediately after, when the driver of a cart hailed him, he came to his side with even greater alacrity than in the case of the more prosperous motorist, and showed equal politeness. I could not help feeling as I witnessed the incident that it would be well for India if the public received from the native police similar courteous treatment, irrespective of rank or person.

One of the chief merits of the English police is that they act with intuition and take in a situation at a glance. The way in which they control traffic in the busy streets is a marvel of cool efficiency, and has earned for London traffic the proud title of being the best-regulated in the world. In striking contrast are the streets of Paris, where the police, or gendarmes, are not so active, leaving traffic to largely take care of itself and go its own way, with the result that

STREET TRAFFIC

noise and chaos reign. Of course, the co-operation of the public is an important factor in the orderliness of the London streets. The raising of Robert's hand is the magic signal for traffic to stop in one direction, while with the other the custodian of law and order guides the stream of vehicles in the opposite line, thus preventing those blockages and annoyances so often seen on the Continent.

The value of the English method is especially noticeable on important occasions, such, for instance, as that of the reception given by the Prime Minister at his official residence. I had the honour of being one of the guests, and although the carriages numbered many hundreds, so smoothly did the police arrangements for regulating the traffic work, that there was no hitch or semblance of confusion, and a few minutes after the reception was over no one could have imagined that it had taken place. The levée and the State ball given by the King-Emperor, the reception at the India Office on His Majesty's birthday, and the State visit of the French President to London, were other occasions which afforded opportunity to observe the unique skill which characterises English police methods.

I am afraid things would have been very different in India under similar circumstances. The temperament of the native policeman, with his lack of spontaneity, contrasts with that of his English brother, from whose book he could with

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advantage take a leaf as to the importance of being on the alert and rising to the occasion. The English policeman recognises that he is the servant of the public; in fact, he is oftentimes not only their servant but their guide, philosopher, and friend. Instances of this may be seen in the London streets daily—the genial “Bobby” sometimes carrying a child with paternal care across a busy street, directing a party of strangers to the principal sights, or piloting with genial solicitude an elderly man or woman safely through the maze of traffic. On one occasion, when I was in a little temporary embarrassment, no sooner had I pulled up my motor car than a policeman was at its side to see if he could render assistance. In India the individual would have had to dismount and approach the policeman, whereas in England the reverse, as I have shown, is often the case. Another matter which struck me was the fact that in the main the uniform of the police is the same all over the country, whereas in India the police of every town have their particular uniform.

It is interesting to recall that the foundation of the modern police force in England was laid by Sir Robert Peel in 1829, hence they were nicknamed “Peelers” and “Bobbies.” The arrangements for maintaining order previous to that date were in the hands of the sheriffs, and were of a most inadequate character. The police of the various counties of England are under the

POLICE CONTROL

control of a joint committee, elected partly from the members of the county council, and partly from the justices of peace of the county. The London police are under the control of the Home Office, except in the City, where they are responsible to the ancient Corporation. The system of direct control helps to render the English police amenable to the wishes of the public, bringing home to them the fact that they are the servants of the community.

India is not sufficiently advanced for such a system of popular control, for it has no institution which corresponds with the English county councils. Again, although there are many public-spirited people in India who recognise that the police are the servants of all, there are many in high places who wish the force to show them allegiance, with consequent disrespect, if not disadvantage to the general community. Some even go to the length of asking the police to do their private work, such as fetching things from market, and so on. In fact, it is an everyday experience in India for petty officers to encroach upon the public services for their own domestic or business purposes. Although there cannot be at present local representative control of the police in India, it may be hoped that in course of time this reform may be possible. It may here be mentioned that the police in Ireland are still under the control of the Government, and the force is of a semi-military character. Their relations with the public, which are seen

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to such advantage in England, are apparent in Ireland, therefore, in a more modified form.

The training and conduct of the British guardian of law and order have been universally praised, but, as I have shown, much of the efficiency and success of the force depends upon the co-operation of the public. There is a difference in India, but it lies mainly in the temperament of the people. If the London police were transferred to India, unless they were superhuman and impervious to temptation, they would be unable to work so well, owing to the fact that the people there would not give them the assistance which is here regarded as a matter of course, nor readily obey their orders. In India the people are reluctant to give information to the police and co-operate with them, because of difficulties inseparable from the system prevailing there, and the police fail to get good results owing to this lack of co-operation on the part of the public. The native constables are not altogether to blame. If an honest man went amongst them he would be confronted by corruption, and it is not reasonable to expect a high standard of morality where bribery is rampant. If a man tries to be honest, he is going to suffer. Generally speaking, no witness cares to come forward to tell the truth unless he has an interest in the case, or is coerced into being a witness, or happens to be a friend of the police.

The Government and the several Commissions appointed by them have given much thought to

THE INDIAN POLICE

this question, and there has been a good deal of discussion upon it in the Indian Press. No doubt corruption still exists, but things have greatly improved during the last ten years, and the fact that now the officers are to some extent men who have received an English education and imbibed the moral code of the British, is bound to have a very salutary effect in raising the moral tone of the force. It must of course be remembered that the rank and file are recruited from the public, so that they cannot be expected to be better than the general run of the community. Whatever may be the faults of the people as a whole, they must to some extent be reflected in the force. Then there is but little education, and no great aptitude for detecting or unravelling crime.

Previously the officers were men of very scant intelligence. They looked upon the authority with which they were invested as an opportunity to make money, and if they neglected to do so they were regarded as an eccentric type of individual. If an uneducated member of the force did not scruple to try to please his superior officer by exceeding his proper authority, he was equally prepared to oppress people and receive from them unlawful gratification.

Although the recent reforms of Government have been very beneficial, there is still much room for improvement. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to seek a better type of Indian from which to recruit officers. The British district

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superintendents and assistants are, generally speaking, of the best, but in choosing their subordinates it is very difficult to secure the right stamp of man. These officers should be of the highest integrity, and at the same time should possess influence in society. It is very often difficult to get this combination ; indeed it can ordinarily be secured only from men of families of good social position, and who have received a good sound English education. This latter point must always be borne in mind. In order to stamp the administration with the British character it is necessary that men selected to offices of trust should have a sound education as the word is understood in England, connoting honesty and integrity, sincerity, and a sense of duty. Without this there can be no appreciable difference between one Indian and another.

It is supposed by some people that educated men are not quite suited for the sort of work that the police are sometimes expected to do, and that they do not exert themselves to satisfy their superiors by each and every means. I am not quite sure whether this opinion is largely held, or whether it is in the main correct. If it is so, and if it is meant that English-educated people would not stoop to small intrigues or oppression, then that is the very reason why they should be prized, and not disliked. The Government and their officers, instead of losing, would increase their prestige by employing such honest men, and the improved police administra-

THE PEARL MYSTERY

tion would tend to the general uplifting and advancement.

An example of the smartness of British police methods, in which an Indian gentleman played an important part, occurred during our stay in England, in connection with what was known as "The Great Pearl Mystery." A necklace of pearls of the value of £135,000 was missed in the post between Paris and London, a packet containing pieces of sugar being delivered to the addressee in the place of the gems. It remained for an Indian diamond merchant in Paris, to whom the pearls were offered for sale, to put the authorities on the track of the supposed thieves, who were arrested in London and placed on trial. Meanwhile a reward of £10,000 was offered for the recovery of the pearls, and the mystery of their whereabouts became the talk of all Europe. The gems were picked up casually in a London street by a workman, who at first kicked the packet on one side with his foot, little dreaming of the treasure it contained.

CHAPTER X

THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy country's.

SHAKESPEARE.

No other city in the world can boast such an infinite variety of charm, or lay claim to a greater wealth of historical associations than London, the seat of British rule. Mere words fail to give an adequate conception of the mighty city, with its handsome buildings and picturesque streets; but of the many objects of interest which make up the thrilling panorama there are two which especially evoke the admiration of the visitor. They compel attention not only by reason of their grace and beauty, but also because of the clustering memories which link them with the aspirations and life of the great British nation. I refer, of course, to the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey. The link between these stately piles—before whose splendour the marble glories of the ancient palaces of the Moguls pale—is more real than many are perhaps aware; for in olden times Parliament found a temporary home

ST. STEPHEN'S

in Westminster Abbey, where the legislative chamber of bygone years is an object of much curiosity to visitors.

From boyhood I had heard and read much about the great British Parliament. My mind was early made familiar with it by pictures, and from the time I began to study English history the palace of St. Stephen's as a place where great movements originated, and laws were promulgated for the people's advancement, loomed large in my imagination. I therefore had a natural longing to set my eyes upon the seat of British rule and government, which I had thus early conceived to be the embodiment of liberty and progress. And this desire, so long cherished, I have been enabled to realise by my visit to Great Britain.

All great things have a small beginning. The giant banian, the monarch of the Indian forest trees, springs from a very tiny seed ; the mighty river, rushing onwards towards the boundless ocean, finds its source in the little stream trickling down the mountain-side. And what is common in Nature is characteristic also of communities. The origin of the British legislature is to be found in the Witenagemot, or assembly of wise men in early Saxon days, which may be compared somewhat with the old *Panchas* in Indian villages. At the time of the Norman Conquest the affairs of State were managed by national councils—feudal gatherings over which the king presided. He appeared,

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however, to have monopolised all power, and the functions of these councils were of a very limited character. At a later stage the barons combined among themselves to wring from their king a fuller share of administration. Next we find the barons fighting amongst themselves, with the result that the king regains his former autocracy and again becomes virtually an absolute monarch. Later, the king is seen ruling the country with the co-operation of the nobility and gentry, into whose hands the political power afterwards largely descends. Parliaments, in the popular sense of the term, did not come into existence until King John was forced to sign the Great Charter. This famous Charter has always been regarded as the foundation of British liberty, and has been confirmed many times.

A fine equestrian statue of Cromwell in front of the Houses of Parliament is a reminder of another landmark in English history, and of the changes wrought by Time. The Commonwealth was followed by another fortunate swing of the political pendulum in the Restoration, which marked not only the re-establishment of the monarchy in place of military despotism, but the supremacy of Parliament and of the landed gentry, who for a long period had a predominant voice in national affairs. Conflicts between the sovereign and his subjects occurred at intervals, but gradually the party system and Cabinet government were elaborated. Party

ELECTORAL POWER

supplanted the Crown as the determining factor in British policy, and the Cabinet became the executive committee of the party. Possessing a majority in the House of Commons, it tendered collective advice to the king, the rejection of which meant their resignation, and if Parliament agreed with them, its dissolution, or surrender on the part of the Crown.

The British Parliament, as is well known, is composed of the three estates of the realm, the Crown, the Lords spiritual and temporal, and the Commons. The Lords spiritual and temporal sit together and form the House of Lords, or Upper Chamber. Political power is now chiefly concentrated in the elective chamber, the Commons. The passing of various Reform Acts transferred the balance of electoral power first from the landed gentry to the middle classes, and then to the people, and thus gradually that system of popular democratic government was evolved which embodies the freedom of British rule, and has been held up as a pattern for other nations to follow. The story of the rise and progress of the British nation, and the building up of a great Empire on which the sun ever shines, floats before the mental vision like a panorama when a visit is paid to the Houses of Parliament.

The India Office had kindly arranged for my visit, and seats were provided in the distinguished strangers' gallery of the House of Commons, commanding a good view of the

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assembly. Provision was kindly made by Mr. Joseph King, M.P., to accommodate the Ranisaheb in the ladies' gallery. A glance through the historic buildings beforehand proved extremely interesting.

Entering the stately St. Stephen's Hall by a modest porch, marble statues are seen of famous statesmen of bygone years. Here are commemorated in characteristic attitude such eminent men as Burke and Grattan, Pitt and Fox, Mansfield, Somers, Chatham, Walpole, Selden, Hampden, Clarendon, and Falkland. The fact that the statues of such fierce antagonists as Pitt and Fox stood facing each other, as if still eager for the fray, appealed to my sense of humour, and I instinctively wondered whether accident or design was responsible for this irony of situation. The statue of Lord Falkland bears mark of recent ill-usage, and thereby hangs a tale. During the disturbances connected with the Votes for Women movement some three or four years ago, a number of militant supporters of the cause quietly walked towards the lobby by way of St. Stephen's Hall and caught the officials unawares. Fastening herself to a leg of the statue of Lord Falkland by means of a chain which she had carried under her cloak, one of the women commenced a loud harangue on "women's rights." Policemen rushed to the scene, and in the forcible removal of the disturber, we were told, a part of Lord Falkland's foot was torn away.

THE CENTRAL HALL

Passing through St. Stephen's Hall into the central hall, which stands between the House of Commons and the House of Lords, one is struck by the magnificent embellishments. Beneath a graceful dome vast windows of richly-stained glass give a pleasing colour effect. Over the north and south portals are fine glass mosaics of St. George and the Dragon, and of St. David, the patron saint of Wales ; the niches of the walls contain statues of British kings and queens, and noble statues of eminent statesmen adorn the floor—Lord John Russell, the Earl of Iddesleigh (Sir Stafford Northcote), John Bright, Lord Granville, and Gladstone. Those of a curious turn of mind may be interested to learn that the figure of Gladstone has been dubbed "the unfinished statue," owing to the absence of a seam in the left trouser leg corresponding to that in the right. This oversight of the sculptor, however, is atoned by the commanding, life-like expression of the gifted statesman whose sympathies with all nationalities marked him out as one of the world's great men.

When I reached the House of Lords, which I saw in full session, Lord Lamington was asking a question on the subject of the protection of the Mahomedans in the Balkans. Later, he very kindly acted as escort. The attendance of peers was not large, and the air of repose which pervaded the assembly was in harmony with the dignity and beauty of the chamber. The magnificent throne, from which the King-Emperor opens

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Parliament amid a scene of mediaeval splendour, is a blaze of crimson and gold. Placed at the upper end of the chamber, it is conspicuous by its rich canopy. On the left is the throne of the Queen-Empress Mary, and on the right the chair of state for His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, while on each side stand towering gilt candelabra.

In front of the throne is the woolsack of the Lord Chancellor, a kind of cushioned ottoman. The woolsack is so called because in olden times, when the growth and export of wool was England's staple trade, the merchants of London presented gaily-decorated wool-sacks, as soft seats, to the House, partly out of compliment, and partly as a reminder of the importance of their trade.

The remaining space on the floor is filled up by cross benches, and at each side rows of crimson seats rise tier by tier to the side walls. Noble lords who are members of the Government, and their supporters, sit to the right of the throne, and the Opposition peers upon the left, the cross benches being reserved for those who belong to neither party. Rich oak carving, beautiful brass-work, and handsome stained glass windows, representing the various lines of kings and queens from the time of the Norman Conquest, complete the adornment of this magnificent apartment.

When the King-Emperor performs the picturesque ceremony of opening Parliament, the peers

THE UPPER HOUSE

await His Majesty in their robes, and Black Rod (an officer with a black staff, surmounted by a golden lion, which he carries as a symbol of office) is sent to summon the Speaker and the Commons to the bar of the House of Lords. The King then reads his Speech from the Throne, a speech which in reality is drawn up by the Cabinet, and which comprises a review of the international situation and a summary of the legislation intended to be introduced by the Ministry during the session. The Commons on returning to their own House usually exercise their privilege of reading a Bill for the first time to demonstrate the fact that they are not bound to confine their attention exclusively to matters dealt with in the Speech from the Throne. The Speech is subsequently read again in both Houses by the Lord Chancellor and the Speaker respectively, and an address in reply, consisting mainly of a repetition of the text of the Speech itself, is moved and seconded in each House by two members of the party in power attired in uniform or Court dress. The Opposition usually moves certain amendments to the address, and thus early in the session has an opportunity of attacking and criticising the policy of the Government. When the address has been agreed to it is duly presented to the Sovereign.

The King's robing room, which is used by His Majesty on State occasions, is richly decorated with fresco paintings representing the legend of King Arthur and the knights of the Round

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Table, and the ceiling is beautifully panelled. In close proximity are the royal gallery, containing paintings representing "The Meeting of Wellington and Blücher after Waterloo" and "The Death of Nelson," and the prince's gallery, in which there is a noble statue of Queen Victoria seated on a raised throne holding a sceptre in one hand, the emblem of rule, and a laurel wreath, the token of conquest and achievement, in the other. To the right stands the stern and rigid form of Justice, holding the scales in which to weigh each deed, and to the left bends the compassionate figure of Clemency, with more tender and softly curved outlines, offering the olive branch of reconciliation and forgiveness.

I did not find myself in utterly unfamiliar surroundings in the gallery of the House of Commons, being acquainted with the interior by paintings in my possession in India. Some faces, too, were easily recognisable. It is not a pretentious chamber, and I was informed that the general impression made when seen for the first time is one rather of disappointment. It struck me personally as being essentially a business chamber, and well adapted for its purpose, notwithstanding the limited accommodation. The rows of dark green seats, with the wide gangway in the centre, rise with gentle gradient, and the galleries along the sides remove any suggestion of bareness. The arrangement of the seats seemed excellent in so far that members could

IN THE COMMONS

be very well heard when addressing the House. But it appeared to me a trifle incongruous that Ministers were almost always addressing the Opposition, their own supporters being at their back. A better arrangement, perhaps, is that seen in the French Chamber of Deputies, where all speeches are delivered from a sort of platform below the chair, the chamber being designed in the form of an amphitheatre. In this case, however, a member has to leave his seat and advance to the platform to speak—a procedure which is not without inconvenience.

The stained glass windows in the House contain armorial bearings of the various parliamentary boroughs, and the rich oak panelling conveys an air of stability and usefulness. It is rather significant that while the distinguished strangers' and peers' galleries command an uninterrupted view of the House, a brass grille is placed in front of the ladies' gallery, which reminded one of the manner in which women are relegated to hidden galleries and behind purdahs in India. A conspicuous object in the Commons is the Speaker's chair, of elegantly carved oak surmounted by a massive hood. In simple state the Speaker enters the House, preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, carrying the mace, and attended by his secretary and the chaplain. The latter proceeds at once to read prayers, and until after their recital no visitors are allowed to enter.

Indians are notorious dreamers. Their faculty

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is one of speculation, and I felt a victim to the natural impulse while watching the proceedings in the House. I was particularly impressed by the profound respect shown towards the Speaker. Far removed from the bias and rancour of party conflict, he ably controlled the deliberations of the assembly, and was treated with a reverence that would be shown by courtiers to a king. But while some things struck me very favourably, the debates did not convey the impression that British parliamentary methods are wholly good. In the Legislative Councils in India, when members speak, an endeavour is made by calm reason to win adherents to a cause, much as a case is presented before a judge and jury. But in British politics it would appear that no amount of jugglery and sophistication are spared by partisans to achieve their object. The speakers may not wish to be taken too literally or too seriously, but the fact remains that they are taken seriously by a section of the electorate, and while it may be argued that the end justifies the means, this is not a very high ideal of statesmanship.

There is much to be said in favour of the existence of big parties, for in a measure they are a guarantee against the abuse of power and privilege. Listening to the debates, I formed the impression that propaganda work in the constituencies was being done by means of speeches in Parliament, for the Press is a power-

PARTY GOVERNMENT

ful factor in the nation. But there is a danger, when party feeling is strained in the conflict of debate, of the common interests being sacrificed on the altar of expediency. This especially struck me, coming from a country like India, where in all the Councils a very high conception of patriotism prevails. It occurred to me that it would promote wise legislation if in the turmoil and fight the two great parties were able to select a committee of, say, half a dozen men, representative of each, and commanding the confidence of the House, to whom could be relegated the settlement of questions upon which there are conflicts of opinion. This would prevent much waste of time, and obviate the spilling of bad blood, not only in Parliament, but the country as well. This method, I am aware, is open to the objection that it would mean the rule of the few, but the Oriental mind is accustomed to the guidance of the wise few as distinct from the mediocre many in the control of national destiny.

Which rule is beneficial in the end is not easy to determine, as conditions vary. History reveals, in the development of nations, a cycle of change from absolute monarchy to oligarchy, and from oligarchy to democracy and republicanism. Every system has its drawbacks, and in arriving at a judgment one has to consider which is fraught with the greatest possible good and the least possible harm. We look upon

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the British Constitution as a happy combination of the virtues of each of these forms of government. The balance of power of the three estates of the realm and the party system act on the whole satisfactorily ; and if by any means its defects could be removed, it would be an ideal constitution. But in this world ideals are never fully realised. We have to take things as they are and make the best of them, and from this point of view the British parliamentary rule seems to be one of the best possible forms of government, provided that it is inspired by honesty, justice, and sympathy.

But I must pass from these reflections to a completion of the tour of St. Stephen's. An important department is the lobby. It is a rendezvous where questions of policy are informally discussed by members, and confidences are exchanged, and where the party whips note the views of their respective supporters. All through the sittings these vigilant guardians of the party interests keep watch and guard, and in times of crisis no one goes away before the close of the sitting unchallenged.

Then there are spacious and well-stocked libraries, also corridors where each member has a locker in which he can keep his papers. It is in keeping with the American notion of "big things" that in the United States Senate each member, so I am informed, has a whole room to himself! In one of the libraries I was shown an old oak table which originally stood in

“THE BEST CLUB”

the old House of Commons, and around which former great parliamentary battles were fought. This interesting relic must have been the venue of many a wordy duel, when great movements affecting national destiny hung in the balance.

Spacious and elaborately fitted tea-rooms enable members to beguile the tedium of a dull debate, when, as Lord Beaconsfield satirically observes in one of his novels, “‘Wishy’ is ‘up’ and ‘Washy’ is ‘down,’” thus indicating that while one “bore” had finished speaking, another had started. Bath-rooms of the latest type, with hot and cold service of water, are provided, and there are spacious kitchens and comfortable dining-rooms; in fact, so many and complete are the conveniences provided for members that the British Parliament long ago gained the reputation of being “the best club in Europe.”

The terrace is a popular haunt of Fashion in the season, which reaches its height when the summer days are long and warm and the strawberry is at its best. Then this fine promenade is crowded with ladies in the daintiest of pretty dresses, taking afternoon tea with members. The terrace commands a fine view of the flowing Thames. The passing steamers on the famous waterway lend animation to the scene, while from the noble Westminster Bridge is wafted on the summer breeze the pleasant murmur of London’s ceaseless traffic, whose cadences fall upon the ear like the distant rumble of a mighty waterfall.

CHAPTER XI

CAMBRIDGE AND A COUNTRY MANSION

THE India Office kindly arranged with Mr. E. A. Benians, a Fellow of St. John's and local Adviser for Indian Students, to show us round Cambridge. The colleges there, as at Oxford, are endowed with large properties, just as our Indian temples are provided for by their founders. These possessions give stability to colleges, and render them more or less self-supporting. Mr. Benians was good enough to take us round the sights of the University. We noticed that every college has its own place of worship. It was a great delight to have a close look at colleges with long centuries of glorious tradition behind them, and which have turned out many of the most illustrious men who have adorned England and the world. Each college has a beautiful playground, studded with stately trees which give a general appearance of cheerfulness to the whole landscape.

The sets of rooms allotted to each student were quite luxurious, much better than at the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, or Sandhurst

CAMBRIDGE

College at Camberley. The rooms would be thought quite comfortable by a rising official in an Indian city like Bombay, and are of a type out of reach of the middle classes in India. To belong to a college at Cambridge only means that the student gets board and apartments at that particular college and becomes a member of the teaching University of Cambridge, which organises a set of general lectures in the various faculties where students of all the colleges come together to attend the series. There are separate fees for each lecture, and students generally take those that are recommended by their tutors. The colleges were closed on account of the long vacation, but I was deeply interested in what I saw, the life there being rendered familiar to me by what I had previously read and heard. Mr. Benians also very kindly took me over the comprehensive and extensive University library.

We had a charming row in a small boat on the river Cam. It was an enjoyable experience to glide smoothly along the water past picturesque banks with green fields on one side and stately buildings on the other, and beneath beautiful little bridges connecting the grounds with the colleges. The river is very attractive in these parts. Though the bed is quite shallow, it is rendered navigable, even for small sculls, by means of locks and weirs.

It had been my great wish to see a country mansion in England, and in response to the

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hospitable invitation of Lord and Lady Iveagh I took the opportunity to visit Elveden Hall, near Thetford and about thirty miles from Cambridge. The Hall was originally purchased by the Government to provide a residence for the Maharaja Dhuleep Singh, the son of Ranjit Singh, "the Lion of the Punjab," and ultimately it was bought by Lord Iveagh. The house is surrounded by a charming park, and woods which abound with game. The estate itself is of considerable extent, embracing several farms and three villages. The gardens of the domain are artistically laid out and present a beautiful appearance, being a blaze of rich colour when all the flowers are in full bloom. The handsome aviary is one of the largest in the United Kingdom to be owned by a private gentleman, while a lake with water-lilies on the surface is another attractive feature of the grounds.

The mansion is a very large one. It contains a good collection of pictures—a vast treasure in themselves. Lord Iveagh is a great collector of rare works of art, and his house in London, which we also visited, contains some magnificent pictures by old masters. The library at Elveden comprises a very fine collection of books. We went over the kitchen and servants' apartments, and also saw the wine cellars. The house is altogether admirably furnished and artistically decorated. I have been in many fine buildings in England, and have admired their beauty, but never have I felt so impressed as when I stood in the large hall

ELVEDEN HALL

newly added to the house by the present owner. The hall is in pure marble, and in the beautiful work I could detect the signs of a mixture of Indian and Mahomedan styles. I could quite imagine myself in a magnificent Eastern abode, say at Agra or Ahmadabad. In fact, I took the architecture to be copied from buildings of both those cities, for it combined in design and execution the delicate carving of Ahmadabad with the bold and beautiful relief work of Agra.

Lord Iveagh had kindly asked his secretary to show us round, and that gentleman and his charming wife did their best to make us comfortable. They also presented us with photographs of this magnificent Hall and the grounds. We derived additional pleasure from our visit, and felt a glow of pride in all we saw from the circumstance that Lady Iveagh is a relation of my friend and companion, Captain Lang.

On this, as on my other tours about the country, I was struck by the fact that, in contrast with conditions in many parts of India, almost all the land of the United Kingdom belongs to private individuals, and is usually fenced in by its owners. Even the village commons, which are used for public recreation and enjoyment, belong to the village community and not to the State. Scarcely a plot of culturable land is to be found without its fence. The green hedges which fringe the lanes are quite a feature of the country. Where there are no hedges, walls of loose stones are put up. The cattle and

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horses are to be seen grazing in perfect liberty in the fields, and hence fences and stiles are a necessity. If land in India were as valuable, or the cultivators and the landlords were as careful of their property as in England, this system would be more largely adopted there than at present.

By coming in contact with some of the great historic families of Great Britain, my regrets that the Indian laws allow the division of ancestral property have been confirmed. It is true that the Government do not now allow the partition of Raj (native state) property; but comparatively few families come under that category. If entail had been the custom for a long time past we should have built up big estates, with luxuriously furnished historic mansions, and country residences with family paintings and valuable heirlooms. Not only so, but there would have been in existence in our country many houses of great antiquity, wealth, and influence, available for the service of Government and people. I saw so many houses of historical interest, dating back for centuries, during my tour, that I felt quite envious of the aristocracy of Great Britain in this respect. Before coming to the West I did not admire some English customs, but on a closer acquaintance with them in their natural environment I can better understand and appreciate English ways.

CHAPTER XII

IN FAIR DEVON

FEW towns in the British Isles possess greater charms than Torquay. In many respects there is nothing to compare with it in all England. Snugly situated at one end of those deeply indented bays that stud the shores of Devonshire, it presents a most picturesque appearance. The warm winds from the tropics sweep over it from the broad Atlantic, and the mildness and salubrity of its climate are shown by the growth of tropical plants. Its red majestic cliffs and noble beach, the charm of its white terraces bathed in golden sunshine, its lovely villas set amid the vivid green of the pleasant hill-sides, and above all the exquisite colouring of sky and sea, appealed irresistibly to my sense of the beautiful in Nature's matchless handiwork.

As I gazed upon the panorama and heard the flood of melody from the birds, to whom this place must be a veritable paradise, my mind instinctively wandered to my own native land. It was the one place in all England that reminded me of the hill station in my own state. Ruskin

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called Torquay and neighbourhood the Italy of England, and Tennyson warmly sang its praise. But perhaps none of these testimonials to the beauties of Torquay can equal the passionate utterance attributed to the great Napoleon when as a prisoner on board ship he had his first glimpse of the England he had hoped to conquer. "Oh ! what a charming place ; I should love to live there !" exclaimed the captured despot as his keen eye surveyed the green-clad slopes of Torquay.

The town is of comparatively recent growth, and is a favourite resort of people of delicate health, on account of its mild and salubrious climate. In winter the temperature never falls below 36° F., and in summer it seldom rises above 77° F. The place thus combines the climatic advantages of a seaside resort and an Indian hill station. Torquay is attractively laid out, abounding in beautiful pleasure grounds, with shady paths, and picturesque glens, with sheltered seats for the weary. There is also a lovely terraced garden at the base of the cliff overlooking the sea, and here one can sit "in quiet contemplation, fancy free," watching the gay throngs disporting themselves on the fine promenade. In the harbour may be seen quite a variety of craft, while another centre of attraction is the elegant pavilion, excellently situated by the sea, where concerts are given by the brightest stars of the musical world, while in the theatre the latest plays are performed by celebrated companies.

FREE LIBRARIES

Those of a quieter frame of mind can find both pleasure and instruction in the museum, which contains, amongst other well-arranged objects of local interest, fossils, etc., which were discovered in the Kent Cavern. On the ground floor are the offices and library of the Torquay Natural History Society. It is worthy of note that even small towns in England have their museums and libraries, which form a focus for everything of antiquarian interest to be exhibited, thus preserving local history intact, and at the same time stimulating public interest therein.

Torquay, like many other towns, is under obligation to Mr. Andrew Carnegie for the generous gift of a free public library, the neat and tidy appearance of which impressed me. The books, kept in excellent order, are conveniently arranged on the card-catalogue system. The stands for newspapers greatly add to the convenience of visitors. We in India would also be able to boast of such libraries if her wealthy men had recognised the need and turned the channel of their liberality in this direction, instead of exclusively in that of providing temples, bathing-haunts and feeding-houses. No doubt these have their uses, and are as necessary as libraries ; but India has been slow in the past to think of any secular form of charitable effort. The time has now come, I would urge, when such institutions for the good of mind and body have a pressing claim on the public spirit and liberality of the wealthy.

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One of the most pleasant experiences of my tour was meeting with so many people willing and anxious to help, and to impart information to a stranger. During my short stay at Torquay it was my good fortune to make the acquaintance of gentlemen who were very kind in giving assistance of this character. Mr. Almy, the assistant town clerk and solicitor, was especially courteous, and we spent some delightful afternoons together in talking over interesting questions in connection with England and India. When I expressed a wish to know something definite about the local borough administration, he was good enough to send me a typewritten summary showing its working. He did his best to make my stay at Torquay as comfortable and instructive as possible, and I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to him for all the trouble he incurred on my behalf. Another gentleman to whom I am similarly indebted is Mr. Roberts. He kindly took me to one of the local schools, and we had a pleasant and profitable time, when he explained the local curriculum of primary education. He also gave me some books used by the scholars as specimens of English educational methods, and afforded me every information at his command, and I greatly appreciate his assistance. It would be invidious to mention names where all have helped and been so kind to me; nevertheless, it would be ungrateful on my part were I not to specially thank these two gentlemen for their courtesy to me.

THE POLICE COURTS

I was desirous of witnessing the procedure at a provincial court of summary jurisdiction, and Mr. Almy kindly arranged to take me to the Borough Court at Torquay. The cases were heard by justices of the peace who were not professional lawyers, corresponding to our honorary magistrates in India. Of course, there were paid officials present to take the depositions, and also to assist the Bench in any difficult point of law which might arise. It was interesting to note that the efforts of the magistrates here seem to be directed rather to ascertaining the truth than to conundrums on strict technicalities of the law. I am not in a position to say if the Indian Courts are unduly given to legal technicality, which often makes the extraction of the truth a matter of difficulty. Here, the Bench, the Bar, and the witnesses seemed to be actuated by a common desire to get at the actual facts, and the Court altogether appeared to realise that the procedure of law is only a means to an end, viz. the discovery of truth, and not an end in itself. From the Court we proceeded to the police lock-ups, which were neat and orderly, coming up to the level of what we have in the big Indian cities. The only person in the lock-up at the time was awaiting his trial on a charge of bigamy.

I had my first look at an English primary school here, and I could at once see that it was better equipped and more efficient than even the Rajkumar colleges in India. I noticed that the

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boys were provided with books, pencils, and paper—in fact everything they required—thus presenting a striking contrast to the lack of requisites in India. I was impressed by the zeal and care of the teachers to make the boys understand their lessons, and was struck by the earnest and enthusiastic atmosphere that prevailed over the whole school. It was a delight to see the boys eagerly awaiting their opportunity to answer the questions put to them, and there was an entire absence of the dread of the teacher entertained by boys in Indian schools. The schoolroom was made as cheery and attractive as possible, and it was obvious from the bright faces of the boys that it was a pleasure to them to be at school. The amount of general instruction imparted was surprising, the spirit of patriotism and good citizenship, loyalty and service being inculcated in the youthful minds, together with the consciousness of their rights and duties. I must note, however, that this particular school has the reputation of being one of the best of its kind in England.

Torquay is a favourite anchorage for the Navy, and in its waters may often be seen lying for a day or two large men-of-war, cruisers, submarines, etc. On one occasion we visited the flagship *Suffolk*. The Admiral was away in London, but we were very courteously shown over the vessel, which proved to be a veritable floating castle. We had seen gunboats at Bombay, so the sight was not altogether novel.

IN A SUBMARINE

We had a peep at the various cabins and saloons, including those of the Admiral, and were shown the guns, and how easily they could be brought into position and fired. Despite their huge size, these by no means represented the biggest guns in the Navy. We also visited H.M.S. *Maidstone*, a parent ship, and one of its submarines. We were very much interested in this visit, as we had not previously seen a modern submarine. The parent ship has control of seven submarines, and provides accommodation for their crews. She carries a complete workshop to make the necessary repairs to the boats under her charge, and stores the food and ammunition for these destructive machines. The submarine is so fully equipped with machinery as to hardly leave room for the crew to stretch themselves or walk upright. The place where the torpedo is fixed and fired was pointed out, and we noticed a telescope that enables a look-out to be kept when under the surface of the sea. Here, indeed, were all the latest improvements that the ingenuity of modern science could achieve compressed into a small vessel ready to destroy the biggest ship afloat.

It was sad to reflect how much skill and labour are employed on destructive purposes. But this is inevitable in the existing state of affairs, because, enormous though the sacrifice may be, the ultimate object of these engines of destruction is the maintenance of peace, and they are a necessity for the national protection.

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Human nature is so constituted that a great nation cannot hope to have peace unless it is prepared to strike if occasion arises.

We spent a delightful afternoon in going over some farms near Torquay. The farmers here are men of substance, and are something akin to our petty *imandars*. They regularly read the newspapers, keep themselves in touch with the improvements in agriculture all over the country, and with current events, taking their part in elections, and forming their own opinions on politics. On the whole they are respected by the people, and, socially, are regarded as of higher grade than the traders.

One of the farms we visited consisted of two hundred acres. We were first very kindly conducted round the house of the farmer. Everything was neat and clean, and even this modest abode compared favourably with many rich houses in India as regards furniture and artistic decorations. The labourers who work on the farm are also comfortably provided for in the house. On walking round the fields, the farmer told us many interesting things about English agriculture. Only half of the land is used for crops, and the other half for pasture and the production of food for cattle in the winter. This particular farmer is in favour of the three-years rotation system, and goes in for wheat or oats, barley and mangolds, or turnips and pasture alternately. They manure the lands very heavily here, using as much as 20 tons

DEVON CATTLE

an acre of farmyard manure, and from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons of lime or bone fertilizer. Whereas in India we have to let the farmyard waste rot for a year or more before it can be used as manure, here the nature of the soil enables it to be ploughed in as it is. Almost all the farmers keep cows, pigs and poultry, which they fatten and sell, thus making a nice profit, as the pigs and poultry are not costly to feed. The cows here, though not very tall, yield on an average from 15 to 20 lbs. of milk per day. This farmer keeps about 25 cows, sells as much cream and butter as he can, and gives the rest to the pigs. Devonshire cows are famous for their milking qualities, and the cream is known all over England as the best and thickest. It is something like our *mallai*.

On the same day we paid a visit to a cattle-breeding farm. There were 42 cows, and the stock was one of the best in England. The cows were much bigger than on the previous farm, and yielded from between 30 to 50 lbs. of milk each per day, while some gave as much as 70 lbs. a day. Their food consisted of an allowance of 5 lbs. of corn and as much hay as they could eat. The stud-bull of the farm was one mass of flesh, and his four small legs stuck out of his fat body like sticks. He was about 12 feet in length, and, we were informed, weighed $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons. He required as much as 100 lbs. of mangolds per day. These animals are considered very ferocious, and are kept

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in special compounds. The farmer informed us that they use the bull up to the age of eleven years only, and that bulls are brought into service very early. We were shown the shed where the cattle are fattened before being sent to market. The fattening takes about four months, and the cost works out at about £1 a month per head. An animal entering the shed weighing 18 cwt., generally leaves it when 31 cwt. if it has well fattened.

Subsequently we saw a still larger farm near Ashburton. The farmer had all agricultural information at the tip of his tongue, and we had a very interesting time with him. One useful hint he gave was that he never removed the small stones on the land, as they helped to keep the moisture in the ground. He used, he said, only 15 tons an acre of farmyard manure for oats, and half a ton of bone-manure for mangolds, grass requiring from 5 to 10 tons per acre. According to him, animals fed on grass enriched by bone-manure are stronger than those fed on the ordinary grass. He also told me that, in order to prevent inbreeding, he never used a bull for more than three years. On going over his fields and seeing the shed where the implements, etc., are kept, we inquired the cost of the full equipment, including implements, vans, horses, and an oil engine for power. The farmer replied that for a holding of 250 acres the total initial expenditure would be about £300, or with horses, £500. Another farmer of whom

THE FARMER'S WIFE

we had previously asked a similar question told us that the total expense of starting a new farm of about 600 acres would come to between £900 and £1,000. At every farm we visited we noticed dogs, which were well kept, and seemed to be very fond of their masters. They were faithful creatures, and really policed the premises.

Another thing we could not fail to notice was the importance of the housewives, and how very useful they are to these farmers in their work, especially in keeping accounts, and other book-work, for which they are fitted because they are so well educated. In India wives help their husbands in the light manual work of the farm, but they cannot assist in any clerical duties. Here in England the keen business capacity of both the farmer and his wife combine to make a happy division of work, giving the latter the general household superintendence and the clerical business of the farm. This is one of the results of the equality of education for men and women.

Some social calls I paid in Torquay gave me a clearer idea of English family life. I observed that women play a much more important part in society than men. The two sexes mix freely, and both being almost equally advanced in culture and education, social life is rendered much more pleasant and enjoyable than in India. The culture of the English women forcibly strikes the Eastern mind. They are

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good conversationalists, taking an intelligent interest in everyday affairs, they can sing and entertain at the piano, and many of them are clever at painting and other forms of art—accomplishments adding to the happiness of the home.

While at Torquay I underwent massage treatment for some time. This treatment has been reduced to a science, and proves beneficial both to convalescents and to weak people who are unable to take active exercise. The treatment is given in homes where women who are well trained and have taken diplomas are always in attendance. Patients are also visited for treatment if required. This art has been almost carried to perfection in the East, and people in England acknowledge that they have learned much from the East in respect to it.

A famous limestone cave, called the Kent Cavern, stands about a mile and a half from Torquay, and amply repays a visit. The Cavern is more than a quarter of a mile in length, and the height ranges from 5 to 20 feet. Candles to permit inspection are provided for visitors by the guide, who explains the various objects of interest. The place has been carefully excavated by geologists and other scientists, who have discovered remains of bears, lions, rhinoceri, and other animals, together with primitive flint implements and charcoal under a stalagmite floor of considerable depth, thus furnishing evidence of the antiquity of man. It is interesting to note how such caverns help in the research

THE KENT CAVERN

work of the scientist. The pieces of flint that served man as implements ages ago lead to conclusions as to the period at which they were used by early man, while observance of the growth of the stalagmite pillar, which in this particular cavern is considered one of the biggest in the world, further helps the scientist to trace the history and habits of man, and determine as near as possible the period of his existence in such caverns. The method adopted was to mark the pillar at a particular period, and at the end of another period, say ten years, mark its growth, and calculate accordingly the number of years it must have taken to attain its present length.

A notable fact is the facility that is afforded to the public to amuse and instruct themselves by witnessing the results of these researches. By keeping such places open for inspection, and providing a guide to explain them, it is possible for the man in the street to learn the truths and lessons they convey. There are many caves like this in India which might reveal a great deal, but it is our misfortune that they do not attract the attention of the explorer and the scientist, while in a large measure we have ourselves to blame for their having remained uninvestigated up till now. I am sure that if our own caves were made the subject of scientific research they would reveal information that would greatly add to the exact knowledge of the world.

Many attractive excursions may be made from

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Torquay to beauty spots in the neighbouring country. One trip which is very enjoyable in a motor, and well repays the visitor for the trouble and fatigue, is the long drive into Teignmouth and on to Exeter. On reaching the beautiful bend of the sea at Babbacombe the scenery is of a rougher and wilder kind, and all that the heart can desire. The blending of colour in the white beach, the blue waters, the red cliffs and green trees produces an altogether charming effect. From here the visitor can have a glimpse of another delightful nook—the beautiful winding path to the Oddicombe beach. The way then lies over hill and dale, with occasional vistas of sea, and unfolding an outlook extremely picturesque. Teignmouth is a pretty watering-place and a favourite summer resort. The little bathing-place of Dawlish is close by, and a few miles further is Exeter.

This is a very old city, dating from Roman times, and is the capital of Devonshire. The Guildhall, which is one of the most ancient municipal buildings in Great Britain, is a sight the visitor should not miss. The city arms, the mayoral robes, the mace and other artistic objects are exhibited in a glass case, and the hall has fine oak carved doors which are pointed out with pride by the attendant. The Cathedral, which dates from the twelfth century, is noted for its magnificent west front. The city is well equipped with colleges, library, picture gallery and museum, together with picturesque gardens,

COUNTRY FESTIVALS

while the ruins of the old Castle add to its attractiveness.

Easily accessible by way of the wild moorland, the central convict prison of Great Britain at Princetown provides another good excursion. The prison is situated on a hill in the centre of the moor. No visitors are allowed to view the interior, and we had to content ourselves by only having a drive round the grim-looking building. We saw some of the convicts working in the neighbouring fields under the observation of warders armed with loaded rifles, and the prisoners looked very strange with closely-cropped hair and in their peculiar garb, marked with small arrows. Escape is thus extremely hazardous, and is rendered still more difficult by the watch towers erected all round the prison, thus affording an extensive look-out for any daring fugitive. It need scarcely be added that there are very few successful escapes.

We spent a very pleasant afternoon visiting Paignton, which was celebrating one of its attractive fêtes. These festivals are periodically held in the summer at almost every place in England, and are not unlike the fairs in India. All kinds of sports are arranged, and there are numerous side-shows to amuse the holiday-makers. The gay crowds devoting themselves to merriment present an enjoyable scene. Opportunity is taken of these occasions by local members of Parliament to approach their constituents. On this particular day there was a

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fête organised by the Unionist party, and addresses were given by Captain Craig, M.P., and Colonel Burn, M.P., on the engrossing question of Irish Home Rule. The speakers expressed themselves in vigorous style and in language which even an Extremist in India would perhaps hardly dream of using. The audience, however, seemed to be so much accustomed to being harangued in such a way that the words, though forcible, lost their sting and much of the meaning they were intended to convey. Colonel Burn, who has himself been to India, at once marked me as a native of that country, and kindly came and chatted with me for some time.

A trip to Totnes and back by steamer on the Dart (the English Rhine) left me with a pleasant memory of a charming day spent on her placid waters, flowing amidst lovely green hills and shady forests. But I may be excused by my English friends if I am still partial to the pretty scenery of the home of my ancestors, the Konkans, with mango, jack, and other beautiful trees, and where the rugged banks are every now and then relieved by stately palms.

I was glad to be able to pay a visit to the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, through the courtesy of the authorities. England, the first naval Power in the world, proudly adores her naval heroes, and Drake, Frobisher, Raleigh, and Nelson are names that inspire every Englishman with lofty ideals and high aspirations. We have occasional opportunities of viewing battleships in

NAVAL CADETS

Indian waters, and I had a natural desire to see the institution that trains the youths to officer the ships on which depend the pride of England and the safety of India. No doubt Great Britain possesses a large and efficient Army, but it is in her command of the seas that she is supreme. I looked forward a great deal to this visit, and was glad to find my expectations fully realised.

The fine red buildings of the Royal Naval College stand on an imposing eminence, and afford a charming view of the beautiful hills and glens around, the river, and the sea. The College educates cadets up to the last stage of completion of their training. It was a pleasure to see the manly youths animated with noble ambition undergoing the necessary training to fit them for the responsible positions they were destined to fill. The boys enter the College after spending two years at Osborne, and at the conclusion of two years' training at Dartmouth they are sent to a cruiser, where they qualify for the rank of sub-lieutenant. The training at the Naval College costs about £100 a year for each cadet, and the entire cost until the position of sub-lieutenant is reached comes to £1000.

The cadets do not have separate rooms, but have to sleep in a dormitory, where boxes are supplied in which to keep their belongings. The College is provided with excellent reading and writing-rooms and a library. We walked through the hall, called the quarter-deck, where the cadets are inspected, and around which are

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situated the class-rooms. The subjects taught include chemistry, dynamics, statics, mathematics, astronomy, engineering, and seamanship. In one of the rooms we saw the models of different ships, and another was fitted up with instruments for imparting instruction in navigation.

We went over the dining-room and kitchen, where every modern convenience was to be seen for facilitating the work, from the cleaning of plate to the peeling of apples and potatoes. There were comfortable officers' mess-rooms, a billiard-room, and swimming-bath, while in the grounds were well-kept tennis-courts. Descending from the hill to the river, we were shown over the workshop, where the cadets have to go through the practical training of making and repairing all parts of a ship. There is also an electrical department where they make their own machinery, even to the motors and dynamos. We were much interested to see the cadets working busily at various parts of a vessel, and noticed that some were engaged in mending the broken propeller of a big ship. The need for leisure, however, is not overlooked, and we saw some of the cadets going out for a sail in one of the boats, which they are allowed to use for both training and recreation.

Returning to the town to catch the steamer to take us up the river Dart, we found just time for a look at the "Butter Walk," which is a typical example of one of the old English alleys, with

THE "BRITANNIA"

its quaint houses and wooden carved galleries. We afterwards boarded the launch and had a glimpse of the old training cruiser, the *Britannia*, which has long been out of date, and with its thatched decks looks like a summer-house in the river. I was struck with the vast improvement the modern cruiser represents when I reflected that this disused vessel was, in its day, one of the finest ships of the British Navy.

CHAPTER XIII

STATE RELIEF AND CHARITY

Rattle his bones over the stones ;
He's only a pauper, whom nobody owns.
THOMAS HOOD.

ALTHOUGH these lines may have been true of the state of things which existed in England half a century or so ago, they cannot be applied to present-day conditions, under which the poor are not only comfortably housed and well fed and cared for, but provided also with decent funerals, so that scandals such as that which prompted Hood's grim satire may be said to no longer exist. The Master of the Workhouse at Newton Abbot very kindly showed us over the establishment, and thus enabled us to gain a good idea of the English poor-law system. Such institutions are governed by grouped parochial authorities, known as boards of guardians, and are financed by rates levied under the poor laws. This particular workhouse is intended to provide for the poor in a district populated by about 97,000 souls. Those who are conversant with English history are aware that any one who is

THE WORKHOUSE

reduced to destitution may obtain admission to these institutions and be fed and lodged at the public expense. References to them have been made in various novels, notably in the pages of *Oliver Twist*, which describes the hardships and sometimes ill-treatment to which inmates were formerly subjected. But since Dickens exposed the abuses then current in these institutions they have been steadily improved. Going to the workhouse was a dread and humiliation to people until quite recently ; but nowadays these institutions are so humanely conducted that they have to a very large extent lost their former bad name, and but for the instinctive self-reliance of the people they would be more readily resorted to.

The Newton Abbot workhouse, which may be taken as a fairly representative institution, provides accommodation for 450 in all, men, women, and children. There is a large dining-room, capable of seating 200 people at a time. We were informed that each inmate is given a regulation allowance of 26 oz. of food every day, and the average cost works out at between 4s. 9d. and 7s. 6d. per head per week. The institution is divided into various departments for the purposes of classification. There is a place where vagrants and those who are temporarily out of work are given food and shelter. But they cannot leave and regain their liberty until they have performed an allotted task. Stone-breaking and wood-chopping may be cited as examples of the work they are required to

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

do. This is what may be described as a true workhouse, which provides men with bread until they can earn their keep. The system is obviously meant for the shifting population, and acts as a deterrent to able-bodied pauperism.

Another department provides for the old and infirm, who are taken care of and have to do only such work as the doctors certify them to be fit for, such as the cleaning of plates and knives, the machine laundry work, and the preparation of the vegetables and other products required for the house. Then there is special accommodation for the sick and aged who are beyond work, and to this department a new hospital has been attached, with 160 beds, under the charge of twelve nurses. The mentally afflicted are kept quite apart from the rest of the inmates, and only patients of mild temperament are detained, those who develop violence being sent away to a lunatic asylum. There is also a department where children under three years of age are lodged and taken care of by trained nurses. We were shown the kitchen and store-rooms, which were very tidy and clean, and afterwards saw the board room, where the committee and ordinary meetings are held, the simple chapel connected with the workhouse, and the grounds, where gardening work is done and vegetables are cultivated by the inmates. Other useful employment is provided by the Brabazon Society, which encourages the older inmates to beguile the monotony of their lives by doing needlework

THE NEED FOR STATE RELIEF

and simple handicraft. Several specimens of this class of work were exhibited, and we were pleased to make a few purchases.

There is a sister institution to the workhouse where orphans above the age of three are cared for. Here the children are taught to do everything for themselves except the cooking, which is entrusted to servants. On reaching the proper age, the children are put out either as apprentices or to a naval or military school. The Matron corresponds with them, and they are thus kept in touch with the institution, which becomes a home to them, especially when they revisit it at Christmas-time. The average cost of maintenance in this institution is from 6s. 6d. to 9s. 6d. per head weekly.

I was altogether impressed with the management of these institutions and the methodical way in which they are carried on. It was indeed gratifying to see how carefully and conscientiously they are worked. If one thing more than another struck me during my visit to Europe, it was these places which look after the poor in their declining years, when, owing to adversity or other causes, they are compelled to seek public support. It is well known that begging is prohibited in England. People are not in the habit of staying with distant relatives permanently, nor is it the custom for them to be taken care of by their relatives when they are incapacitated for labour; therefore these workhouses are a necessity, and they admirably serve

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the purpose for which they exist. The State system of poor relief is supplemented by private effort in a great variety of ways. But as much of this effort is conducted by religious organisations, I must before dealing with it indicate the impressions I formed of English Christianity.

In India holidays come regularly and are connected with some religious festival. While worship is the principal motive, pleasure and sight-seeing also attract. Pilgrimages are undertaken to the shrine of the local deity, and after the homage and ceremony the people do their shopping and indulge in festivity. In England one does not see such festivals. In remote country districts, however, there are lingering relics of the ancient religious rites of the Romans. One of these, to be found to this day, is the crowning of a chosen maiden as the queen of May on the village green. After the pretty ceremony, her juvenile courtiers, or maids of honour, wearing wreaths of flowers, dance round the maypole, to celebrate the return of spring. Thus homage is paid to Flora, the goddess of flowers. These customs, however, have now all but died out, and religion in England is no longer associated with feastings and merry-makings.

My travels and observations in Great Britain impressed me with the fact that while there does not appear to be a great deal of ceremonial religion, there is a keen sense of personal responsibility and the obligation of social duty.

ORGANISED CHRISTIANITY

This particularly struck me, coming as I do from India, where the conception of religion carries with it no corresponding moral activity nowadays. A worthy act is done in the East, not from the mere desire to help, but because of the advantage it is expected to bring the benefactor in the next world. In India the people are always looking to the future life—it is the guiding thought of their existence. While the Hindu religion is based on the salvation of the individual soul, English Christianity in addition to this is altruistic and permeated by philanthropy of a practical character.

Places of worship are not so accessible or so frequently resorted to here as are the Indian temples. An Englishman will perhaps attend church or chapel but once a week, and may seemingly put away his religion with his Sunday clothes ; nevertheless his code of morality is of a high order. The sense of honour is very strong among the British. In India there is a sort of dead level, although the spirit of charity is paramount. Consequently, Indians would not think of sitting down to a meal without asking a hungry person of their own community to share it. Their door is always open to the needy stranger. Another trait of the British is seen in their commercial morality ; religion, indeed, raises their whole nature, and, speaking generally, dominates their every action. This is probably the fruit of their early training in the Sunday schools and religious instruction

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imparted through the whole course of their education.

There are many religious sects in England, which is not altogether surprising in a country where freedom of thought and action are recognised. The Church of England, which claims the largest number of adherents, asserts that her ministry of three orders—bishops, priests, and deacons—is not only in accord with the rule of the church in the days of the Apostles, but that the bishops derive their authority by succession from the Apostles themselves. Through the centuries of her history she has maintained her ideal of national churches existing within the Church Catholic, and has maintained the right of “every particular or national church to ordain, change, and abolish ceremonies or rites of the church ordained only by men’s authority” (Article 34). Affirming that the sovereign has “the chief government of all estates of this realm, whether they be ecclesiastical or civil,” she declares that “the Bishop of Rome hath no jurisdiction in this realm of England” (Article 37). Beyond doubt the English Church has played a great part in the cause of national freedom.

The Presbyterians recognise the authority and divine appointment of the sacred ministry, but maintain that the true apostolic succession lies in the order of presbyters, and that episcopal assumption of the sole power to ordain is a usurpation. A direct contrast is the attitude of the Congregationalists, who stand for the

THE NONCONFORMISTS

autonomy of each local assembly of believers. They hold creeds and articles of religion unnecessary, and, asserting that the authority of a Christian church is purely spiritual, they claim it should in no way be corrupted by union with temporal or civil power.

The Wesleyan Methodists were founded by John Wesley. Moved to action while at Oxford by the spiritual apathy of the Church, he formed a small society of undergraduates to observe the Prayer Book more closely, to keep its appointed fasts, to attend the sacraments regularly, and to apportion their time methodically, hence the name of Methodists. Wesley's declaration "the world is my parish!" has been verified, for the denomination together with other forms of Methodism has adherents in the remotest corners of the earth. Other religious organisations include the Baptists, who in preference to infant sprinkling advocate the complete immersion of those of sufficient age who profess faith in Christ; the Jews, who look forward to the coming of the Messiah and the restoration of his race to Palestine, when the temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem; and the Salvation Army which, established by the late General Booth, recognises the oft-forgotten truth that the mission of the Christian Church is to the outcast.

Each of these denominations is a centre of organised charitable effort, which finds expression in various forms, such, for instance, as feeding and clothing the poor and needy, providing

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institutes for the recreation and self-culture of the young, and the encouragement of thrift by means of mutual benefit societies, penny banks, etc. Both charity and benevolence are seen on a much wider scale in England than in India. Far from being confined to the building of places of worship and the endowment of religion, it finds fuller scope in the establishment of orphanages and convalescent homes, hospitals, the provision of employment for needy gentlewomen, homes for the blind, the crippled, and the deaf and dumb and other afflicted persons.

I had the privilege of seeing several institutions of the kind. For instance, while in London, I paid a visit to Dr. Barnardo's Homes at Stepney Causeway. This has the reputation of being the largest orphanage in the world, having over 6000 inmates, and branches all over the country, the work done being of a national character. The doors of the institution are open day and night for the reception of homeless waifs and strays, who after being educated and trained are placed out as apprentices or sent to Canada, where farmers are eager to receive the lads. They turn out excellent workers, as shown by the fact that 95 per cent of them become owners of farms themselves. We have, of course, orphanages in India, but they are not to be compared with homes such as these, which are well organised, and are doing a really valuable work to benefit the community.

On another occasion Colonel and Mrs. Wray

PHILANTHROPY

showed me over the Convalescent Home at Cobham. We had a very pleasant drive to the institution, which is prettily situated in its own grounds. It was here that we were able to see how patients are brought back to health after receiving treatment or undergoing operations in a London hospital, from which they are received. The arrangements are perfect in every way, and the institution admirably fulfils the purpose for which it is intended. In the grounds were some very fine cows and poultry. The Home, I believe, is entirely organised by private charity, and since Colonel Wray has been connected with the institution he has done for it valuable work.

It was indeed a marvel to me to see institutions so beneficent and so various, and to note the high standard of philanthropic organisation society in England has developed. We have the instinct of charity in India, but it is indiscriminately distributed, often even to the detriment of national character. Amongst us differences of religion and creeds are a great drawback to joint action. In England also these no doubt have some effect, but they are made almost nugatory by the strong patriotism and common sense of the people. If we in India become true to ourselves, religious differences will cease to be a barrier to our advancement. The restricted but indiscriminate channels of our philanthropy have often proved a source of annoyance and trouble, especially at the places of pilgrimage, where

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

people are subjected to a great deal of worry and humiliation. It is the duty of the Government and the leaders of society to put a stop to this state of affairs. It will be very beneficial to the country at large when our charity turns to the establishment of such institutions as we see in England, and when our philanthropic efforts are organised and placed upon a sound and satisfactory basis.

CHAPTER XIV

BRISTOL AND THE ROYAL SHOW

ON a visit to Bristol I found the historic city gay with flags and in holiday mood, in honour of the coming of the King-Emperor to the annual show of the Royal Agricultural Society. This is the chief event of the year in the agricultural world, and, embracing not only Great Britain but the overseas Dominions, the exhibition partakes of an Imperial character.

The countries represented in the overseas section included the Malay States, also the whole Commonwealth of Australia—Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, Western Australia, —South Africa, Rhodesia, and Canada, while exhibits were also sent by the Department of Agriculture, Bengal, and the West India Committee. I was disappointed to find that India was not better represented, a deficiency which, if possible, should be remedied on future occasions. The Governments of the other great Dominions showed considerable enterprise in having their countries represented in this world-famed exhibition. The expense and trouble

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they incur in this direction are well repaid, serving to advertise their raw products and manufactured goods, and thus creating a market for them. These exhibits also have an educative value, enabling the visitors to understand the nature and resources of the respective countries, and thus affording an inducement to people to emigrate to them. The Governments had printed for distribution descriptive pamphlets giving information as to the climate, soil, products, etc., and altogether this section formed in itself an interesting and dignified little exhibition. It was noticeable that everything is done by the exhibitors themselves, from erection to completion, whereas in the case of shows in India it is all done by the organisers.

The Royal Agricultural Show is migratory, being held in different parts of England in turn. This, I was informed, was the third time it had been to Bristol during the seventy years the Society has existed, and on each occasion the exhibition has been graced by the presence of Royalty. The show-ground was situated on a high elevation known as the Downs, which commands an extensive view of the city and the surrounding country. Close by, the fine Clifton suspension-bridge spans the river Avon. From this eminence can be seen, on the one side, rich pasture-lands and rolling hills, and on the other the new docks at Avonmouth, recently opened by the King-Emperor, and the waving billows of the ocean. On the surface of the river,

THE ROYAL SHOW

several hundred feet below, the gliding steamboats had a Lilliputian appearance, while the trains looked like mechanical toys as they darted in and out of the tunnels of the rocky gorge which, with its wealth of vegetation, reminded me of the rugged scenery of the Narbada and Tungabhadra rivers in my own land.

The show itself was on a vast scale, the entries of live stock alone numbering over three thousand, but so perfect were the arrangements that there was no semblance of confusion. Everything worked with machine-like precision, and the completeness and finish which marked the entire direction demonstrated the genius for organisation which distinguishes the British from the Oriental mind. I must confess that I visited the show with a certain amount of prejudice. To visitors from the East, it seemed, there could be very little beauty in British cattle, compared with the matchless form of animals to which they are accustomed. Moreover, I had already seen in Devonshire what were reputed to be some of the best British cattle. I noted their big capacity for yielding milk, but their heavy bulk I could not admire, though appreciating the pains which must have been taken to improve the breeds.

The Bristol Show was nevertheless a revelation, and a survey of the countless stands led me to see that I was fortunate to witness such an exhibition of all-round excellence, comprising as it did the very pick of horses and cattle, the

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most up-to-date implements and machinery, and the latest devices for improving agriculture—the greatest of all industries. It can hardly be supposed that without the stimulus of societies and exhibitions such as these progress could have been so marked, and their existence is thus more than justified. I am not without hope that in future India, with the new awakening which has set in, may be encouraged to make still further efforts in the direction of developing and improving its methods of agriculture and kindred pursuits.

In addition to the displays of cattle, sheep, and pigs, which may be termed the first line of exhibitions such as these, there was a goodly array of poultry and pigeons, a horticultural show of considerable extent, and a department devoted to dogs. Daily demonstrations and competitions in butter-making, bee-keeping, and other rural industries, and of no small educative value, supplemented displays of produce of various kinds; rural education was not forgotten; and even forestry (all too long neglected in the British Isles) had a place in the programme, which was of a thoroughly comprehensive character. The complete catalogue was on sale to visitors; in the case of a show in India it probably would not have been ready until after the event.

A very creditable entry was made in the classes for horses, which seem destined to well hold their own, despite the rapid development

THE ENGLISH HORSE

of the motor-car and other mechanically propelled vehicles which are a distinguishing (and extinguishing) feature of this scientific age. I was particularly struck by the shire horses; the stallions especially looking the picture of strength. As far as teams went, I had seen some of the best of their kind in London, so they were not new to me. Generally speaking, the horses were mainly of the more serviceable type, and intended for farm work. Shetland and polo ponies, though not numerous, were very popular, as they deserved to be, their graceful form evoking the admiration of visitors, as did also the hunters. One thing which attracted my attention was the docking of the horses' tails. This is not done in India, and the practice, I was glad to learn, is being gradually discarded in England, owing largely to the efforts of a useful organisation known as Our Dumb Friends' League, which in many ways champions the cause of animals and seeks to prevent hardship and cruelty.

Amongst the cattle one missed the hump which is so familiar a sight in the East, while the heaviness of the animals was another striking feature. The uninitiated would scarcely dream that England contained animals of such elephantine proportions as those to be seen in the Devon classes. In striking contrast with the ferocious-looking horned bulls were the gentle Jersey cattle, which, although comparatively lean, are good milkers. These, together with

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Guernseys, have come to the fore rapidly during the last few years, and buyers for America are especially keen fanciers of the breeds. The small Kerry cattle I also admired. They reminded me of the diminutive cows we see near Pandharpur in the Deccan. The latter, however, do not give any milk, whereas the Kerry cattle are good milkers for their size.

Sheep were to be seen in great variety, the horned or ram class being particularly fine, while the brightly-painted colours of the fleece made a gay scene. The predominant breed of the show in this department was the big long-wool variety from the county of Kent. The pigs, like the heifers, were of herculean proportions. They appeared too ponderous to stand, and, like the fat boy in *Pickwick*, seemed to be always asleep.

In the poultry section there were nearly fifteen hundred entries, and the quality throughout was good. Indeed, it was surprising to find how many different strains can be obtained by cross-breeding and special rearing. All sizes were to be seen, and every variety of colour in comb and plumage, the birds altogether forming quite a big feature of the show.

The horticultural exhibits were a feast for the eye. Never before had I seen such magnificent flowers, never before such a blaze of beauty brought within so limited a compass. Rich carnations vied with lovely roses, modest sweet-peas competed with lordly fuchsias, and scarlet

MILKING BY MACHINERY

geraniums and red and white pelargoniums revelled in a riot of colour. Then there were cool-looking ferns, and tastefully arranged rock gardens with small ponds, on whose placid surface water-lilies rested in their glory of white perfection. The fruit looked very luscious and tempting, the strawberries, peaches, nectarines, and grapes making one's mouth water. Nor were the vegetables less enticing. Such fine tomatoes, peas, potatoes, beans, and cabbages were shown that some of us wished we might always get vegetables like this.

The machinery and trade exhibits comprised a large and important section, and much was to be gained by its inspection. The development of science and its application to the needs of the farmer were shown by some striking contrivances. For instance, it would seem impossible to stand out against the motor invasion, when ploughing in England, which costs with horses ten shillings per acre, is done by motor for three shillings and sixpence. But milking cows by machinery is surely enough to make our forefathers lie uneasy in their graves ! Fancy a cow having two wide belts placed round her, with an intricate apparatus suspended which serves as both milker and milk-pail in one, an adjacent engine supplying power to do the work. The cows, I noticed, seemed quite unconcerned by this startling departure from the custom of ages.

Engines were to be seen for water-lifting, and there were traction engines, mowing and

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threshing machines, windmills, garden hoses, and numerous other contrivances. Of special interest to Indians was an apparatus for boring wells. It was capable of penetrating to a considerable depth ; but this contrivance does not appear to have been sufficiently tried. He would be a benefactor to India who could devise an instrument which would find water and bring it to the surface at a comparatively small outlay. I saw a variety of pumps and some small engines which would be useful for lifting water from a well, grinding corn, and other purposes.

The educative side was not lost sight of in the exhibition, and the frequent demonstrations in butter and cheese making, bee-keeping, etc., not only added to its attractiveness, but increased its value. Bee-keeping in particular might be profitably undertaken in India, where there are so many flowers, especially near the mountains ; and although the variation of the seasons in the north would have to be taken into account, the industry is one well worth serious attention. It will be a great day for India when the exhibitions there follow British lines in their practical conception. At present they are simply *tamashas*, and produce very few if any real results. The contrary is the case in England. There one cannot fail to be impressed by the business characteristics of the people. Farmers attend these shows not only to enjoy themselves, but to see what improvement they can make either in their crops or the rearing of their cattle. I was

THE COMPETITIONS

interested to note the care taken by the British agriculturist in the selection of seeds, all kinds of which, by the way, were exhibited, together with small patches of ground showing the growth of the crop and the beneficial effects of certain manures. Though farmers in India take care of their seed, they are not so enterprising as their British brothers, who go out of their way to make inquiries as to the seeds best suited to their needs.

If an exhibitor obtains a prize at an English show he is at once sought after—people know he has good stock, for the award carries with it the hall-mark of excellence, and they give him their patronage; whereas in India he would be allowed to pass unheeded in this respect. At Bristol large stands had been erected to enable the public to watch the judging, which was followed with keen and intelligent interest by the people. If an exhibit gained first prize, questions were asked to ascertain the points of merit which secured for it the coveted trophy. In India there is lack of both enterprise and confidence on the part of the public. Another matter which struck me at Bristol was the fact that in addition to ordinary farmers so many rich and aristocratic people competed in the show and took great pride in winning prizes. Among those who secured awards were His Majesty the King-Emperor, the Duke of Westminster, the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Rothschild, and Sir Walter Gilbey. The King-

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Emperor gained first prize for a shorthorn heifer, and second prize for a Hereford bull, and was "recommended" in the class for shorthorn bulls.

The judges made up their minds quickly, without fear or favour, and the public had absolute confidence in them and their decisions. It would be well if in India we could come up to this high standard. The honesty and independence of British methods is illustrated by an amusing incident related to me. When the late Shah of Persia visited England some years ago, he attended a show at which King Edward VII., then Prince of Wales, won some prizes. But they were not all first prizes, and the Shah is said to have expressed his horror at the disloyalty of the judges who had awarded and the competitors who had received some prizes of higher rank than those allotted to the heir to the Crown. He was astonished and even shocked on learning that the guilty people were not to be put to death.

A description of the show would not be complete without reference to the arrangements made for satisfying the "inner man." Refreshments of all kinds were provided in handsome pavilions, and lunches could be had from half-a-crown to ten shillings. Similar arrangements are made at nearly all public functions in England, where, unlike India, it is quite the custom to take food with strangers and away from home. The climate of the country

BATH

conduces to hunger, and after being out of doors for a while one begins to feel "done up."

Few towns in Great Britain can compare in architecture and situation with Bath, one of the great inland spas of the Kingdom. Its houses are built of stone quarried in the neighbourhood, and the fine terraces, squares, and crescents, with their ornamental gardens, present a picturesque appearance. The town derives its name from the hot baths and mineral springs that have made it a fashionable watering-place from the time of the Romans to the present day. I was charmed with the place on the occasion of my visit, and could readily appreciate its popularity. I was informed that Queen Elizabeth was wont to resort here to take the waters. It interested me very much to see how these natural springs are utilised, not only for the promotion of the health of those who avail themselves of their advantages in this respect, but also for the benefit of the town, which derives no small revenue from this source. All the provision for the health and pleasure of the people, which I could not fail to notice, represents a great deal of business enterprise on the part of the municipal authorities, which bears fruit in corresponding profit.

Here Society flocks after the round of gaieties of the London season, or else the wealthy take a pleasure trip on the Continent to recoup their health, to begin again the whirl of enjoyment and repeat the same process. To some, and

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especially young people, these health-resorts are cities of pleasure pure and simple, and this class is well catered for in the numerous attractions, such as band performances, concerts, and other entertainments. There are so many of these natural springs and beauty spots in India, especially in the Konkan, that it seems rather a pity they are not turned to profitable account. It occurred to me that if these could be developed somewhat on the lines of British spas, people might be induced to visit India for the benefit of their health, instead, perhaps, of going to Cairo, especially if resorts could be found within easy reach of Bombay. Even Java has set India an example in these matters. During my visit there last year I found that these beauty spots and hot springs were largely utilised. The good opportunity afforded Indian capitalists in this matter merits their attention.

On leaving Bath by rail after my brief visit, I had my first glimpse of an English twilight in the country. I had heard much about the twilight here, and had longed to see it. In London I had previously noticed it, but it could in no way be compared with what I saw in the country. As the train left Bath, the city was bathed in the halo of the setting sun, which imparted a fresh beauty to the landscape ; while neither words nor painter's brush could adequately portray the exquisite pencillings of the sky, which resembled a vast sea of molten splendour, though not so gorgeous as may often

THE EVENING LANDSCAPE

be seen in India. The houses and scenery grew fainter and fainter, yet the light lingered until it melted into darkness and night, amid a scene of peaceful calm which changed into one of further beauty when the silvery moon appeared in the azure firmament and shed its pale light upon hill and dale.

CHAPTER XV

THE SCOTCH CAPITAL

One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.

SHAKESPEARE.

Come forth into the light of things,
Let Nature be your teacher.

WORDSWORTH.

I SHALL not readily forget the sense of pleasure which was awakened by my visit to the land of Scott and Burns. After journeying from Manchester through the coalfields of the North, with their dense columns of black smoke clouding the atmosphere, the beauties of Edinburgh came as a revelation. We stayed at the Royal Hotel in Princes Street, which has been honoured by visits of the King-Emperor on two occasions, once when Prince of Wales, soon after his marriage with the Queen-Empress Mary. Princes Street enjoys the reputation of being one of the finest thoroughfares in the world; and it is truly a delightful promenade. A full mile in length, and fronted by lovely public gardens, it is ennobled by a magnificent monument to Sir Walter Scott, 200 feet in height, while across the green slopes of a deep

THE CASTLE AND HOLYROOD

ravine rises, ridge by ridge in picturesque outline, the ancient portion of the city, surmounted by the Cathedral of St. Giles and the historic Castle.

Edinburgh Castle is one of the most memorable fortresses in British history, and one which, by the Articles of Union between England and Scotland, has to be kept fortified. Some two hundred years since, civil war raged on British soil and the town of Edinburgh was in the hands of rebels, while the Castle was held by the soldiers of the existing Government. The Castle had been the seat of the Scottish kings for centuries. In the crown room we saw the Scottish regalia, the cherished relics of the ancient Scottish nationality and independence. We were also shown the window through which King James was let down a depth of some two hundred feet in order to be secretly baptized a Catholic. The fort with its deep moat, steep bastilles, and winding steps reminded me of some of the old Hindu Rajput fortresses. These, however, are much more extensive, being spread out like a village. It was very interesting to find in the garrison many who had been to India. The commanding officer came and chatted with us, and even the soldiers who had served in the East seemed delighted to see some Indian faces again.

Holyrood Palace being closed owing to the suffragette outrages, permission to inspect it was obtained for us by a telegram despatched to

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London. It is a fine palace, but not to be compared with Windsor or Fontainebleau. As in France one constantly heard the name of Napoleon, so in Scotland everywhere the name of Mary Queen of Scots came up. Unfortunately, I could not enter into the feelings either of Englishmen or Scots in the respect they appeared to have for this ill-fated Queen. Her rooms at the Palace are well preserved, together with the bed on which she slept, with its mouldering finery; the work-box which she used when engaged in her favourite recreation, embroidery; and other relics. Along the picture gallery are arranged the portraits of a hundred Scottish kings, and a glance at the rather crude canvases reminded one of the vicissitudes of those who have worn the Scottish crown. The late Queen Victoria, King Edward, and the present Sovereign have made short stays at Holyrood. Previous to the construction of the Palace there existed on the same site an abbey which was dedicated to the holy rood, that is holy cross; hence its name.

The Parliament House, in front of which is a fine equestrian statue of Charles II., was the meeting-place of the Scottish Parliament until the Union of 1707, after which it became the seat of the Court of Session. It has a big library, containing no less than 320,000 volumes, together with a large collection of manuscripts and literary curiosities.

The Scottish capital is noted for its numer-

EDINBURGH INSTITUTIONS

ous banking establishments, which are an indication of the thriftiness of the people. I was particularly pleased with a visit I paid to a small unpretentious building called the People's Bank, an institution which was started on the principles of co-operative credit, and enables persons to obtain loans at a low rate of interest with a view to becoming the owners of their own houses. The city is also fortunate in its educational endowments. There are several large "hospitals" for the nurture and education of children, the most important of these being the Heriot and Donaldson Hospitals.

One of the most imposing buildings in the city is the Royal Infirmary, which occupies a site of some twelve acres, and cost half a million sterling. The Infirmary is built in the Scottish baronial style of architecture, and on what is known as the pavilion system, which secures free circulation of air. There is accommodation for nearly 900 sick people, besides which about 30,000 outdoor patients are treated annually. They come from all parts of Scotland. The cost is defrayed by legacies and voluntary subscriptions, and there is a small army of 120 nurses.

Another striking building is the University, which is conspicuous by a very fine dome, surmounted by a figure of Youth holding aloft the torch of knowledge. The library contains nearly 200,000 volumes and 7000 manuscripts, many of them of great historical interest. The

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University staff comprises forty professors, distributed over the six faculties of divinity, law, medicine, arts, science, and music, and the fellowships, bursaries, and scholarships, numbering over 200, have an aggregate annual value of about £11,000. Each session there are over 3000 students enrolled, chiefly medical. It is interesting to note, as indicating female advancement in the West, that there are some 200 women students at the University. In medicine and surgery Edinburgh has long been held in high repute, and the rapid growth of these departments has necessitated the erection of an additional pile of buildings close by for the accommodation of the medical classes and laboratories of the University. I was very interested to find that there were about 200 Asiatic students studying in the different medical colleges, the overwhelming majority of these being Indians.

The city is built of durable sandstone, and the general aspect is that of great solidity. The place of residence of considerable numbers of the Scottish landed gentry, Edinburgh is also largely resorted to for the sake of the educational advantages it offers. It abounds in beautiful squares and broad thoroughfares, and the architecture, if somewhat monotonous, is nevertheless chaste.

A trip to Edinburgh would not be complete without a visit to the famous Forth Bridge, one of the engineering wonders of the world. I

THE FORTH BRIDGE

took the steamboat from Leith Docks to view it, and on the way passed Lord Rosebery's beautiful estate, Dalmeny, the mansion being just visible through the foliage of the magnificent trees fronting it to the edge of the sea. The bridge exceeds 8000 feet in length, and it rises 450 feet from the base. The cantilever consists of two brackets, the lower (in ordinary position) supporting the railway by compression, and the upper (inverted) by tension, the two being firmly interlaced and practically indestructible. The masonry piers upon which the cantilevers rest are founded at from 50 to 90 feet under water-level, and vary in diameter from 70 feet at the base to 60 feet at the top. The main piers of the cantilevers are of steel tubes 12 feet in diameter, carried up to a height of 370 feet, whilst the rails are 160 feet above high-water level. Altogether, 50,000 tons of steel were used in this gigantic structure, the whole being welded together by 8,000,000 rivets. Placed in line, the bent plates for the tubes would cover 32 miles. The bridge has a metal surface of 25 acres, and it took 250 tons of paint and 35,000 gallons of oil to paint the work.

A feature of the Scottish capital which cannot fail to strike the visitor is the number of bare-footed boys and girls to be seen. Whether from choice or necessity, nearly all the children of the poorer classes disdain the use of footwear in winter as well as in summer, I was informed. Suffering the torture of British boots at the time,

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I reflected how much better it would be for comfort and health if the tyrant Fashion were dethroned and people generally took to loose-fitting shoes, as in India, or discarded them altogether, except in cold weather. The sight of barefooted boys and girls in Edinburgh was in keeping with my ideas of the simple life. They appeared to gain rather than suffer from their disregard of convention, for they looked the picture of ruddy health. In fact, all over Scotland the people generally bore that appearance of physical and mental strength which is associated with dwellers in hilly and mountainous countries.

During my stay in Edinburgh I motored to Peebles, where my visit happily coincided with the annual gathering of the International Summer School. It was held at the Hydro-pathic Hotel, the spacious rooms and beautiful grounds of which proved an ideal place for the reunion. Nearly two hundred delegates were present from Great Britain, America, and various other countries, and questions of a moral and religious character were discussed from a common platform, lectures being delivered by prominent personages and classes being held for the exposition of problems of religious interest. In the open air, amid such lovely surroundings, with the golden sunlight streaming down, the mind instinctively turned to the great mysteries of the world and the human soul, and one's nature became attuned to nobler things. I was

“WHAT IS TRUTH?”

reminded by this assembly of the old Rishi sages, to whom in ancient times the people came to learn wisdom in the quiet seclusion of the woods, where the exposition of truth fell upon the eager ears of attentive listeners. One also recalled the days of Buddha, when he lived and preached in the open air.

These gatherings not only afford people of all creeds an opportunity of meeting together and exchanging views on theological questions; they also serve to focus attention upon different phases of moral and religious truth, and thus help to stimulate thought and encourage research and culture. Moreover, such meetings are not without their influence upon the mind of the general public. It is desirable, especially in the West, that the public should be occasionally reminded of the value of religion to the world, for there are many persons, educated and otherwise, who affect a sort of superiority to its influence.

I felt a glow of pride in seeing an educated Indian like Dr. Khedkar giving a lesson and expounding the highest truths of Indian philosophy before a cosmopolitan audience. He was following the Socratan method of teaching by asking questions. “What is truth?” was one of the problems we heard discussed, and some of the definitions were interesting. “Correspondence of the order of thought with the order of phenomena” was one of the answers. “All that is beautiful is truth”;

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"Truth is harmony"; "Truth is knowledge, love, and wisdom"; "Ugliness is undeveloped truth"; "Truth is everything," were among other replies. "Where does truth exist?" was afterwards put; and the answer came, "Truth exists in space." To the query "What is space?" was given the reply, "Space is the quality of consciousness." Again, truth was explained as existing in the mind, and the mind was defined as "that which covers the operation of thinking." This brief reproduction will give some idea of the character of the proceedings. No definite conclusion was arrived at; it was simply a vivid exchange of thought.

After the lecture I was asked to give a short address. I complied, and was listened to with interest and kind attention. Members of the School afterwards assured me that the questions I had touched upon were occupying their serious attention. Some of the truths I expounded they had already grasped, while they were trying their best to follow others under the guidance of Dr. Khedkar.

CHAPTER XVI

GLASGOW AND THE HIGHLANDS

As Edinburgh may be said to live by its beauty, and to be the chief pleasure city in Bonnie Scotland, so Glasgow may be described as the industrial metropolis of the North. Its teeming population of upwards of three-quarters of a million has gained for it the proud distinction of being the second largest city in the United Kingdom. Situate on the Clyde, Glasgow owes its commercial importance to that river, to the neighbouring coalfields and ironworks (whose smoke renders it a city of grime), and to the enterprise of its citizens. Shipbuilding is the most important industry, and I had the privilege of seeing over the extensive yard of Messrs. Bartley & Co., where several hundreds of hands are employed. Mr. Gilchrist kindly acted as pilot, and it was very interesting to watch the different processes of building those giant vessels. The people were very hospitable and invited us to lunch.

The next day we visited the experimental farm of the agricultural college in the vicinity

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of the city, and saw many practical demonstrations relating to various departments of the cultivation of the soil. Especially interesting were the processes of making butter and cheese; these, we were informed, are exported to different parts of the world. We were also shown the incubating method of rearing poultry by means of a "foster-mother" and artificial feeding. The poultry formed a rare sight. Whole broods were kept, and the different colours of the combs and plumage formed a pretty scene. It was feeding-time during our stay, and the eagerness with which the fowls came running after their food was both interesting and amusing. In other departments machinery was exhibited and experiments were made to improve crops and prevent disease by the employment of artificial manure. It was evident from all we saw that the college is doing a valuable work, which might with advantage be introduced largely in some form or other in India. Happily the Government there have been doing their best in the past few years to encourage and give instruction in scientific agriculture.

The exploration of a coal-mine at a village on the outskirts of Glasgow was an experience which had for us a weird fascination. Stepping into a huge cage, we descended from daylight to darkness. To explore the dingy subterranean passages we were each provided with a Davy lamp. The pit ponies used for drawing the

DOWN A COAL-MINE

trucks of coal away from the scene of operations for conveyance to the upper surface did not appear to have suffered much from their imprisonment underground, and we were informed that they are well cared for and under inspection by Government officials. In former years boys and even girls, we heard, were employed to draw the trucks, but this practice was prohibited by law, through the intervention of the late Lord Shaftesbury, backed up by public opinion; hence the introduction of ponies for the work.

The coal is hewn from the seams by means of heavy pickaxes, one of which was handed to me to "have a try." I, however, hesitated to add coal-getting to my category of accomplishments. Some specimens of coal were presented to me, and these I shall treasure as interesting souvenirs of a trip into one of Nature's marvellous store-houses. It was in many ways a unique and pleasurable experience. The visit coincided with a public holiday, when the schools were closed. The news of our presence in the village quickly spread, and created quite a flutter of excitement in the neighbourhood. Boys and girls crowded round our motor-car, women stood at their windows and doors, and men turned in the street to get a glimpse of our party; for we were informed that not within memory of that indisputable authority, the oldest inhabitant, had an Indian nobleman and lady been seen in the locality.

Loch Awe is one of the largest and most

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picturesque lochs in Scotland. It is about thirteen miles in length, and the breadth scarcely exceeds three-quarters of a mile. Hemmed in by a majestic range of mountains, the highest of which (Ben Cruachan) reaches a summit of 3689 feet, the loch is studded with small beautiful islands. A pleasant day's trip can be made in one of the steamers that traverse the whole length of the loch, connecting with both coach and rail at either end. As one glides smoothly over the surface of the water one passes through some of the loveliest scenery in Scotland, both shores being visible and presenting an attractive appearance with their verdant pastures and stately trees. Though very striking, the scenery here scarcely comes up to the grandeur of natural beauty to be seen in some parts of India.

About a mile and a half from Loch Awe Hotel, on the other side of the loch, lie the ruins of Kilchurn Castle, the oldest parts of which, we were told, were built by Sir John Campbell in 1440. The immortal Sir Walter Scott mentions this castle in the *Legend of Montrose*. An interesting story is told concerning the first lord of this stronghold, Sir John Campbell. Sir John took the vow of the Cross and joined the holy Crusade. His lady waited for him for seven years, when news was brought that he had been killed in battle. After some time, under pressure and false pretences, the lady promised her hand to another suitor, Lord M'Corquodale, and the wedding-day was fixed. Fortunately Sir John

FORT WILLIAM

returned to the castle on the day fixed for the ceremony, to the joy of all save the unlucky bridegroom-elect, who had intercepted the letters sent to the lady by her husband, and led her to believe that he had died.

Another charming trip was to the Falls of Cruachan. The cascade was very pretty, especially when viewed from a lofty elevation. One thing we noticed here was the ease with which the mountains can be climbed. In India almost all the mountains are rocky, and it is very difficult to gain a foothold ; but here the grass prevents slipping, and it is possible to safely get down almost any kind of steep descent. It is, moreover, rendered free from peril by the absence of snakes. In India there are many of these venomous reptiles, and such out-of-the-way places would be fraught with considerable risk.

From Loch Awe we proceeded by rail to Fort William, journeying through some delightful scenery. The monotony of the bleak moors was relieved by green plantations and beautiful cascades, and every now and then we passed the fringe of a placid loch or rushing stream. As we neared Ben Nevis we saw every now and then patches of snow in the crevices and on the tops of the neighbouring mountains. We had a fine glimpse of Ben Nevis itself, which is the highest peak in Scotland, or, for the matter of that, in the whole British Isles. It looked magnificent in its rugged grandeur, and capped by the eternal snows. So proverbial is the perpetual existence

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of snow on this mountain that it is made a condition in a local land grant. The Cameron of Glen Nevis holds possession of his land by an agreement which entitles him to it as long as the snow lasts on the top of Ben Nevis. The story goes that only once has the tenure been endangered. On this occasion the Cameron had to fix a tent over the snow. The preceding winter was very mild and the succeeding spring and summer very warm, with the result that the snow melted so rapidly that there was a possibility of its disappearance unless means were taken for its preservation.

Fort William is a place full of memories of Prince Charles, the Young Pretender. It was in this vicinity that the unfortunate Prince unfurled his standard, and it was also from this place that he finally departed after the failure of the ill-starred adventure. As we left by the steamer for Oban, Ben Nevis gradually came into full view and could be seen in all its impressiveness. It formed a truly thrilling spectacle, and compelled admiration even from us Indians, familiar as we are with the grandeur of natural objects in our own country. Our route to Oban through the sea-lochs was also very attractive, the hills, with their rich vegetation, looking most charming.

We spent a couple of quiet days at Oban. The prettily situated town, with the bay stretching before her, the mountains in the background, and the well-dressed throng of

OBAN

sedate holiday-makers, appealed to me. Many places of interest exist in the neighbourhood. Among them we paid a visit to the ruins of Dunstaffnage Castle. Garrisoned during the rebellions of 1715 and 1745, the Castle has not been used as a residence since 1810, when it was partly destroyed by fire. We also went a few miles farther to see the Falls of Lora. Their noise led one to imagine they must be coming from a considerable height, but we found to our disappointment that they did not exceed five or six feet. But as the water descended over the reef it rushed along at a tremendous pace. On our return to Oban we purchased a few souvenirs, and also some Scottish clothes. At Oban we reached the most northern part of our tour, and as it was summer we consequently had the experience of the longest period of daylight we had known. Even till about ten o'clock at night it was possible to see one's way about in the streets without artificial lighting, and one woke up early in the morning to find the sun already high up in the heavens.

Scotland is a land of chivalry and romance. Almost every bit of ground is hallowed by stirring incident or thrilling anecdote connected with local history, and these have been preserved by bard and minstrel. The countless charms of its mountains, glens, lochs, and wild moorlands have been sung the wide world o'er. As befits the dwellers of a land of rugged hills and picturesque beauty, the Scotch are a frank, level-

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headed, cautious, and bold and self-reliant race. Their apparently stern demeanour is but the veneer which covers a warm and sympathetic disposition, for their contact with the great heart of Nature kindles within them all the finer as well as the rougher qualities of the soul.

CHAPTER XVII

CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT IN IRELAND

FROM Glasgow we sailed to Belfast, where I had my first glimpse of Ireland, the "green isle of Erin," whose struggles and vicissitudes, whose hopes and aspirations, have formed the arena of so much party conflict. Although not a large place compared with the greater cities of the United Kingdom and Europe, Belfast is nevertheless a busy and well-equipped city of goodly pretensions whose public spirit does it credit, and under the genial guidance of a respected friend, Mr. John Tate, late of the Public Works Department, Bombay, I spent one of the most pleasant days of my tour.

The fine City Hall, with its noble marble staircase and banquetting chamber, impressed me with the fact that, at any rate in this instance, a single town in Great Britain is better housed for administrative purposes than an entire presidency in India. As an instance of the up-to-date character of the appointments, I may mention that the banquetting hall is fitted with a patent spring floor for dancing. Five

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hundred couples are said to be required on its surface to give it the proper momentum, and the scene of gaiety presented by so large a body of dancers revelling in the popular pastime can easily be imagined.

The shipbuilding yards of Belfast afford employment to large numbers of men, and are capable of building ships of the largest class. In the dry docks, which are very huge, I saw a cruiser which had been built for the Japanese Government and had been brought in for overhauling and repair. I was also taken to a linen factory, and saw the material woven from the flax into the finished article by means of power looms. Belfast linen and cotton goods are known all over the world. Belfast, indeed, carries on an extensive over-sea trade, and its foreign commerce exceeds that of Dublin, for in addition to the industries mentioned there are jute mills and rope-making and tobacco factories in the city. Although essentially an industrial centre, Belfast is interested in agriculture, and I was pleased to see an exhibition of industries which had been arranged with a view to Government organisation of trades connected with land cultivation. As land is the source of all wealth and industry, this movement is a hopeful sign, and a step forward in a direction which should produce beneficial results.

The long-drawn-out agitation and the uncertainty which prevails as to the future

THE HOME RULE CONTROVERSY

government of the country have a somewhat unsettling effect upon trade, and, rightly or wrongly, it is declared in some quarters that the factories would be seriously affected, if not closed and removed elsewhere, if Home Rule were granted. Political discussion is heard on all hands, and public feeling is keen either for or against the great change. As far as my own personal experience went, the majority of people I came in contact with were opposed to Home Rule. I was informed that the shares in industrial undertakings were depreciating in value owing to the uncertainty of the political situation. A final settlement of the question is therefore devoutly desired, whatever form it may take, and will be a relief to England as well as Ireland.

Proceeding from Belfast to Dundalk and Dromintee, we saw some beautiful scenery and one of the highest mountains in Ireland. All the valleys seemed to be studded with houses, and although they were of a smaller and poorer type than we had seen in England and Scotland, and the farms were also smaller and inferior in quality, they compared favourably with the farms in India.

The co-operative movement, it was encouraging to notice, had made headway in Dromintee. The local secretary of the Co-operative Society, a retired schoolmaster, is a most intelligent man, keen on improving the condition of the agriculturists, and with a thorough grasp of

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the question. Combining practicalness with enthusiasm, he is the right man in the right place. With evident pleasure he showed me a letter he had received from one of his former pupils who had settled in America, telling how he was getting on, and asking certain advice, thus demonstrating the continued influence of the schoolmaster's training and the confidence it had inspired.

A visit I paid to one of the Dromintee schools revealed a marked contrast with what I saw of education in England. The impression I formed was that Irish schools were behind the times. In England the children were bright and intelligent, and their readiness and freedom in answering questions betokened the pleasure their instruction gave them. But the Irish boys and girls I found to be timid and backward in demeanour, with a suspicion of dread of the schoolmaster. I am, of course, alluding to primary schools, whose equipment, however, is equal to that of the best secondary schools in India.

I spent a very interesting and instructive time at Enniscorthy, especially in, a visit to the co-operative stores. It is worthy of note that 1913 was the jubilee year of the co-operative movement, which has proved an important factor in the progress and advancement of the people, and from which the co-operative credit system may be said to have sprung. Some idea of the growth of the movement during the last half

THE CO-OPERATIVE JUBILEE

century may be gathered from the fact that from humble origins and small beginnings it has become the largest industrial organisation in Great Britain, and the greatest hope of the workers throughout the world. During the first year, the turnover of the Co-operative Wholesale Society was only a few pounds, but it has now reached upwards of thirty millions sterling—figures which fully justify its existence.

Especial attention was being directed to the movement during the year, for just prior to my visit to Ireland a number of commissioners from Canada and the United States of America had preceded me on a tour of Europe, undertaken with a view to investigating the working of the system, and especially of co-operative credit banks. I was asked if I would like to accompany them to Ireland. It would have been interesting had I been able to do so, but unfortunately my engagements forbade this step. While at Enniscorthy I found that some Scotch visitors had also come there to inquire into the system, so that altogether the little go-ahead place had awakened to find itself famous.

There can be no doubt that the co-operative movement has done much to quicken life in villages. It was the refusal of a shopkeeper at Enniscorthy to supply the committee of the local co-operative credit society with a bottle of ink when they were sitting to transact their business which led them to determine to

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establish an institution which could supply all the ordinary necessities of life, from a brass pin to a threshing machine.

The stores at Enniscorthy are very well stocked, and quite an important feature of the place. Here can be obtained not only the necessities but some of the luxuries of existence—groceries, bread, butter, cakes, sweets, hosiery, clothing, selected seeds and fertilisers, agricultural implements large and small, while there is a department for the manufacture and repair of saddlery. I found the officials very business-like. One of the committee, who was known by the name of "Pasha," had been an officer in Egypt, and in a chat with him I found that he knew something of India also, as he began his career there. We need such people in our Eastern peninsula before we can hope to make any real advance in the co-operative movement in India. I also had long talks with several other members of the committee of the society, and they kindly allowed me to be present at their business meeting, so that I might have an insight into the methods of their work. In my conversation with the members I was agreeably surprised to find them conversant with the state of things in India.

Observers of the progress of events are very hopeful of the future of Ireland through the instrumentality of the co-operative movement. It is enabling the poor tenant to improve his position and status rapidly. For instance,

IRISH AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS

money is advanced to enable him to buy a small pig, which with a little care he is able to fatten and eventually dispose of at a good profit. Loans are also granted for the improvement of his land and purchase of machinery, which by a system of easy repayments becomes his own property. It is only since co-operation has been established in the country that the more extensive use of machinery has been made possible, and this, together with the assistance of the State in enabling tenants to become the owners of the land they till, has brought about a change which is bearing fruit in slowly but surely increasing national prosperity.

Ireland is considerably ahead of the sister countries of Scotland and Wales in the matter of agricultural co-operation. Perhaps the movement is not so keenly needed in Great Britain as it is in Ireland. The farms in England are usually large, and people generally are better off. Co-operation is of great assistance to people of small means. It enables them to offer better security and obtain better terms than would otherwise be possible from people with whom they are dealing. But even in Great Britain the Government, as well as thinking people generally, recognise the advantages of this movement, and their encouragement has given it a strong impetus. There is no doubt that in course of time the co-operative credit movement will become as popular as the stores and other branches. Not only are the

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co-operative credit banks in Ireland of great convenience and value, but co-operative production and distribution are increasing. The aim is to do everything in the villages on this system, and there appears to be no doubt that in the near future they will be able to show very large results.

I was particularly interested in inquiring whether loans were advanced for what may be called non-productive expenses, such, for instance, as marriage. Although there existed some difference of opinion on this point, I gathered that there would be no objection to advancing a loan of this nature, provided the committee responsible for making the advance were satisfied that the expense was necessary and not improvident. I was further assured that very little difficulty is experienced in obtaining repayment of the loans in proper time. To ensure the success of the movement it is essential that there should be impartial men on the committee with sufficient strength to advance loans only to persons of good character and integrity who intend to honourably fulfil their obligations. This is taken so much as a matter of course in Ireland that the persons with whom I talked could not understand the difficulties we experience in these matters in India. When the Society was started at Enniscorthy the trouble was to find a borrower. In India that would not have been difficult. When a loan is negotiated in Ireland

CO-OPERATION IN INDIA

the matter is treated confidentially, and no one but the borrower, his sureties, and the committee know of it.

There is a great deal of surface similarity between conditions in Ireland and India. There is in both countries the landlord, to whom the tenant has to pay rent, and the Irish gambin man is the equivalent of our Marwari. The movement at the beginning had to encounter the distrust of the people, which was readily overcome; then the apathy and suspicion of the landlords, which, happily, has largely abated (in fact the majority now heartily support the movement); and lastly it had to face the opposition of the money-lenders and shopkeepers. It had gone through all these phases, and is now, it is hoped, on the high-road to universal recognition and acceptance.

Progress in India has necessarily been slow, because a great educational work is an essential preliminary. In England the people possess business capacity, commercial morality, and the desire to better their position. For a long time they have managed their own banks and joint-stock undertakings, while the various self-help societies and similar organisations, conducted in each case by a committee of members, have accustomed even the poorer classes to manage their own affairs for the general good. The ground being thus prepared, it was easy to apply co-operative credit to this state of things. In the British Isles banks are to be found even

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in the villages, and most business concerns, especially in rural areas, are managed by private individuals.

In India all these things are wanting. There are few banks and joint-stock enterprises, and the recent fate of so many Swadeshi banks has been the reverse of encouraging. Speaking generally, Indians lack business capacity, commercial morality, and the altruistic spirit. "Business is business" is the unyielding motto which characterises commercial dealings. Before there can be any great progress made in the co-operative movement and co-operative credit in India the native population must largely cultivate the business-like habits and communal spirit of the British race. It is of no use to transfer the rules of one society to another, unless they are rigidly followed, both by those whose duty it is to enforce them and those who have to abide by them. The committees of co-operative credit societies must do their duty without fear or favour, while borrowers must make their payments punctually and with a due sense of the honour of the obligations they incur.

People here seem to have such strong faith in co-operation that they believe that the unceasing war between capital and labour, between class and class, and even between State and State, could be abolished if the movement were to be generally adopted, and made to apply to the everyday life of the individual.

CO-OPERATIVE IDEALS

Some go so far as to urge that it need not be confined to the provision and distribution of necessities for the human race. Even small communities, they think, could become self-contained, meet all their wants by co-operation, cater for their own food and amusements, and devise means for self-government ; in fact, the whole gamut of social need can be met in the true co-operative and altruistic spirit. Well, it is a beautiful ideal. It may or may not be attainable ; but the movement even along the accepted limited lines is very useful and well worth promoting, tending as it does to make life in our towns and villages more happy, prosperous, and contented.

CHAPTER XVIII

THE IRISH PEOPLE

AFTER a pleasant time at Enniscorthy we next day took train to Glenmore. It was the date of some local races, and special railway facilities were provided. Watching the scene at the station, I found that travelling in this particular part was as good (or as bad) as in India. In England the railway officials are polite and obliging, and the real servants of the public, but here they seemed to have the upper hand of the people, and to be autocratic. The train being rather crowded, some passengers, I noticed, took refuge in a first-class carriage, from which they were unceremoniously and peremptorily bundled out. Others in our compartment were allowed to remain, and it was evident that a modest coin is not without its value in securing comfort on a railway journey.

On alighting at Glenmore we found the place on holiday. All through the country holidays are kept at certain periods in honour of some particular saint. Work generally is suspended when these festivals come round,

AN HOSPITABLE FARMER

and after a religious service the day is devoted to enjoyment. Consequently there were no conveyances to be had at the station, and we experienced some little difficulty in getting any one to take us to our destination. Ultimately, through the intervention of the obliging station-master, we secured a guide, and started on our journey. On our way we met a hale old farmer of some eighty or so years, just entering his yard. We went up and talked with him and inquired if he could get us a conveyance. He replied that he would be only too glad to oblige us if there was a man in the stables.

Meanwhile he took us into his house, where we had a long conversation. I found him a very interesting character. He had been in California, and had sympathy with Indians. He showed us most ready hospitality. When I expressed my appreciation of his kindness he offered the genial remark, "If I were discourteous to you, what impression would be created in India? In that case my action, if it became known, would not bring merit to my country." Then he added, "If an Irishman went to India, the Indians would make him at home"; and I thanked him for his compliment and correct estimate of the Indian nature. He insisted upon our partaking of refreshment, and altogether proved a most jovial man. His son, he informed us, had received a good education, and did not care to be a farmer, in which respect he resembles many other sons of farmers. The gentleman himself was a justice

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of the peace at Enniscorthy. He soon had a trap ready and took us to the priest, who was the organiser of the local co-operative credit society.

My conversation with him was both interesting and instructive. Speaking of the religious situation, he showed how the priests studied the material as well as the spiritual welfare of the people, and gave considerable help in starting the co-operative credit societies. It is because such men of influence and intelligence in the community take a deep and active interest in the movement that it is making such good headway in Ireland. One thing that struck me was that the ministers of religion all over Europe are far better educated and more looked up to than is the case in India. They have a deep sense of their responsibility in ministering to the religious wants of the people, and they are an undoubted power in upholding moral ideals. They also concern themselves closely with the material welfare of the people. It is very difficult to be moral and religious in the absence of bodily comforts, and this fact is recognised by the clergy.

I was informed that the clergy are generally men of very high moral character and good family. They strive to be serviceable to the whole community, and the people treat them with very great respect. The priests are also almoners to the poor ; they organise many charitable works, and altogether fulfil very high, important, and useful functions. I fervently wish that India

ORGANISING INDIAN CHARITY

would take a leaf out of the book of Europe in this respect, when we should see a real step forward in the advancement and happiness of the great mass of the nation. Again, education in Ireland is largely in the hands of the clergy, and they try to improve it ; in fact they seem to leave nothing undone that is calculated to promote the moral, spiritual, and material advancement of their parishes.

With regard to charity, when I was thinking over this beautiful phase of the British character, a fantastic idea came into my mind. I am a believer in the modes in which alms are given in India, to encourage and foster the practice of *yoga* and other methods prescribed by the Shastras, but I am of opinion that it would be a right step if we were to start organising societies and appointing committees versed in the subject to ensure that only those received charitable help who had claim to it. The waste in this direction would thereby be prevented, and the money saved could be utilised for other good objects. At present a few deserving persons are helped, but large sums are uselessly spent upon mere idlers. To effect reform method and organisation are needed. Unfortunately there is a lack of proper understanding of what is wrong and what is right in these things. Our notions of right and wrong have been perverted on account of the want of public spirit. Until this is forthcoming we shall not get any one to work straightforwardly and honestly. It would be a red-letter day for India

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were people public-spirited enough to be prepared, if need be, to suffer ignominy in promoting a movement such as I have referred to for the weal of the community.

I was altogether glad to visit Ireland, for I saw that in respect to the condition of agriculture the position is in many respects similar to that which exists in India. On the whole, I found the Irish to be jovial, and to take life easily. The nation generally is poor, and on this account not so ambitious as the English. The people in the less frequented parts are rather backward and inclined to be subservient, and, while respectful, are somewhat timid in their attitude towards the upper classes. The faults of the Irish, and their good points, may be said to be seen in an exaggerated form in India.

Our Irish tour ended with a visit to Dublin, the capital. Situated at the mouth of the river Liffey, and at the head of the picturesque Dublin Bay, it is a really fine city, with handsome free picture galleries and museum, public libraries, a university, and, in fact, all the institutions that go to make an up-to-date municipality. Its open spaces and public gardens are well laid out, and maintained in excellent order. The most interesting building is the Castle, which I visited. It is the official residence of the Viceroy, who, as the King-Emperor's representative, holds courts and levées, and discharges many of the functions that commonly fall to the Viceroy in India. Dublin is crowded during the Castle

DUBLIN

season, and still more so at the time of the Horse Show in August.

No small part of the progress and prosperity of the city is due to the enterprise and generosity of Lord Iveagh, formerly head of the great brewery firm of Messrs. Guinness & Co. I had an opportunity of inspecting the extensive premises of the firm, and was much impressed. The Brewery is quite a feature of the place; it might almost be said to be a public show, for most visitors to Dublin make a point of seeing it. There are waiting-rooms for those who call for this purpose, and a guide is in attendance to take persons round the premises. We saw the huge vats, or tanks, in which the beverage is brewed, and except in the place where it was actually fermenting there was no smell to indicate the character of the manufacture. Everything was scrupulously clean and tidy, and the order and method on every hand betokened the capacity for organisation which characterises British industrial enterprise. We went as far as the river and saw where the malt was stocked. So large is the output that quite a small railway is required to connect different parts of the premises and to remove the stock when ready for transmission to all parts.

It may be mentioned that, on the sale of the business to a company a few years ago for some £5,000,000, Lord Iveagh gave a quarter of a million for the building of dwellings for the working classes, to be let at low rents, one-fifth to

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be spent in Dublin, and the rest in London. His Lordship has also expended £250,000 in clearing an insanitary area in Dublin, building thereon workmen's dwellings, baths, concert hall, etc., and has given the same amount to the Jenner Institute in London for the study of preventive medicine.

During our stay in Dublin we paid a visit to Sir Horace Plunkett, who kindly invited us to dinner. He has a charming house a short way from the sea, Kilteragh, Foxrock, which is constructed so as to secure the maximum of sun and air. Sir Horace told me that it was one of the healthiest spots in the district. A clever conversationalist, he related many anecdotes of the Irish parliamentarians, his stories of Irish "bulls" being very amusing. Altogether I spent a very enjoyable time in the company of my genial and distinguished host. Sir Horace has had a notable and varied career. Having been engaged in cattle-ranching for several years, he afterwards promoted agrarian co-operation, and founded the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, which has done so much to improve land cultivation throughout the country. He was elected member of Parliament for Dublin County, South, in 1892, and held the position for eight years, being a much-respected member and popular with all parties. In the midst of his manifold duties, and during the course of a busy life, he has found time for literature, being the author of *Ireland in the New Century*, which

A GLIMPSE OF WALES

has been widely read and appreciated, a work on *The Rural Life Problem of the United States*, and other books.

After taking leave of Sir Horace Plunkett we boarded a steamer for Holyhead, and from thence returned to London. During the journey I had a glimpse of Wales, and was pleased with the scenery. It is rather curious that although Wales has formed part of Great Britain for some centuries it looks upon itself as to a certain extent separate, and, like Scotland, it has distinctive national characteristics. The country is mountainous, and the climate varies considerably. The districts through which we passed are not so rich or prosperous as some other parts of the British Isles. The towns and houses are comparatively poor, and the aspect of affairs generally seemed a little bit dreary. I had a very good view of Carnarvon Castle, where the historic ceremony of the investiture of the present Prince of Wales by the King-Emperor took place amid a scene of stately splendour. The Castle, set on the brow of rugged steeps, looked very strong and picturesque.

As I journeyed to London, after the novel experiences in Scotland and Ireland, I felt a sense of home-coming in returning to scenes with which I had been familiar during the previous few months. The train rushed through big towns like Rugby, Crewe, and other hives of industry, past huge chimney-stacks and extensive factories, and on to the environs of London,

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covered with pleasant-looking and well-kept suburban residences, which, with all the signs of comfort characteristic of the dwellings of the well-to-do in these parts, contrasted very favourably with things in Ireland.



Photo, W. A. Sawyer.

THE CHIEF OF ICHALKARANJI AND THE RANI SAHEB.

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CHAPTER XIX

LIFE IN ENGLAND AND INDIA

THERE is a prevailing idea in India that Englishmen who go there in high official positions enjoy life in far better style than they could afford to do at home. As far as the glamour of authority and the consciousness of power go, there is an element of truth in the belief. But as regards the actual comforts of life, one is forced to admit that the notion of undue luxury is imaginary. A man may not be able to afford to keep a carriage and pair and a score of servants in England, but he gets all the comfort and much more than he could ever hope to obtain from all the paraphernalia surrounding him in an Indian district.

I have had opportunities of visiting retired Anglo-Indians in their homes, and they seem to live in even better comfort than in India. Some of them have pleasant houses in well-kept grounds, and have a carriage and pair, or a motor. Even those who cannot afford to live thus, manage to reside in some good town, and can have all the comforts of a carriage and servant. As a matter

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of fact, even a working man in England seems to enjoy life as much as a well-to-do person in India. His house is well built in brick or stone, with comfortable living and sleeping rooms, and a cosy kitchen leading into a useful and convenient scullery, the whole bearing an air of extreme cleanliness and tidiness.

The English have their clubs, which are better than those in the Indian up-country stations. They also have their evening and dinner parties; and games of golf and tennis, while the general mass of the people favour cricket and football. Golf is the chief pastime of the aristocracy and the well-to-do, and many of the links are very beautiful. Tennis is not played so fast as in our country, where the hot sun hardens the ground. Sea and river afford plenty of boating pastime, which is made a special feature at the universities. The annual race on the Thames between the rival crews of Oxford and Cambridge, which I witnessed, is one of the most popular national sporting events of the year. Recreation plays an important part in the English school curriculum. Every school has its own playground, and the value and importance attached to physical education and training are indicated in the famous saying of the great Duke of Wellington that the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing-fields of Eton.

The Turf is followed with keen interest by all classes of the people. The Derby is the

ENGLISH STANDARDS OF COMFORT

most popular race, partaking of the character of a holiday festival, while the most fashionable and exclusive gathering is that at Ascot, where it was a great delight to see King George with Queen Mary discarding regal etiquette and chatting freely with their friends. His Majesty, in fact, assumed the rôle of a typical English gentleman, so characteristic of his beloved father, the late King Edward, who was affectionately acclaimed as "the first gentleman in Europe."

The English standard of life and comfort is in all ways higher than ours. In the houses they have far better baths than we can ever hope to get in India. There is an abundance of that first essential of good health, pure water, which is laid on by means of pipes in the houses, and can be turned on by a tap in the living-rooms and bathroom at will. The benefit of this convenience will be apparent to the people in India, where outside the larger towns, instead of water being available in constant supply, it has to be drawn from wells some distance away, and carried in vessels to the houses.

Other domestic commodities are also more readily obtainable in England than in India. Supplies of milk, butter, vegetables, and other articles are delivered at the houses of the people. Gas and the electric light are fitted for instant use when required. All these advantages, of course, minimise the household work, and although fewer domestics are employed, they are more tidy and methodical. Half a dozen servants

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in England, or even less, work harder and do more than twenty men-servants in India.

In one respect, that of big-game shooting, retired Anglo-Indians are worse off in England than in India. There is not much of this kind of sport in Great Britain ; and whatever shooting there is, it is very costly—so much so that only the highest and the wealthiest classes can indulge in it. Another sport they cannot keep up, save at a few places like the Ranelagh Club, is that of polo. But by the time they retire, perhaps, they are not keen upon a pastime requiring so much hard exertion, and possibly they do not regard their loss in this direction so very keenly after all. On the other hand, a good deal of compensating sport is obtainable, such, for instance, as stag-hunting, fox-hunting, deer-stalking, and shooting rabbits and hares, grouse, pheasants and partridges ; also salmon and other kinds of fishing.

When we were in Scotland we saw some grouse moors, where what are termed shooting-boxes are frequently rented for the season. Gentlemen give shooting parties and invite their friends to join them, and the King honours some hosts by accepting their invitations. Like his father, His Majesty is an excellent shot. In killing game, like pheasants, partridges, and grouse, which sport is legally restricted to certain seasons of the year, men are sent in advance of the firing party to beat the bushes. The startled birds fly about and are then brought

DEER-STALKING

down by the guns. Dogs are also very largely used. They are termed pointers, because they are trained to scent the game and, without disturbing it, point its location to the guns.

Stag-hunting is mainly confined to Scotland, and a very few English country districts. The stag (which resembles an antelope) is conveyed to a chosen spot in a closed van, from which it is liberated at a given signal, and then chased by mounted huntsmen accompanied by a pack of hounds, until the animal is run to earth, perhaps after covering a distance of some twenty or thirty miles. Deer are preserved for sport in the Highlands of Scotland, where wild tracts of moorland country abound. The largest of the deer forests extends to about one hundred thousand acres, and the smallest is about one-tenth that size. Owing to the large hills to be traversed, deer-hunting entails a journey on the backs of ponies, which are strong and sure-footed. The shooting is very arduous, owing to the wary alert deer having to be stalked. In the summer the deer roam wild in the forests, where the grasses provide them with food, and in winter they come near the forest keepers' lodges, and are daily fed there. Deer are said to have been introduced into Great Britain by the Romans, but there are cases on record where they have been found in a fossilised state, thus pointing to their existence in Britain ages previously.

It is remarkable how many English families are closely connected with India. At every turn

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you come across people who have either been to India themselves, or who have friends or relations there. But despite all this it is hardly surprising that people should not have very clear notions about the Dependency. As a rule it is not realised that India is a continent by itself, composed of diverse nationalities, varieties of climate, and different manners and customs. It is forgotten that what may be said of one part of India may have no application to another part. There is, for instance, the widespread belief that India in general is intensely hot, whereas there are parts where the climate is not unlike that of England itself. Then customs differ widely regarding the dead. In some cases festivities accompany the rites, while in others the mourning extends over a period of a year. Again, cremation is practised by some castes, and by others burial is observed. It will thus be seen how easy it is for wrong impressions of India to gain currency among the English as a whole.

One thing which particularly impressed me was the beauty of the English gardens. A Sahib who has to spend a large sum of money to keep his garden in good order in India does not in the end, owing to the absence of water and rain, succeed in raising it to such perfection as would be the case in England at far less cost. Nature there is so bountiful that practically every one has a nice garden, where flowers, fruit, and vegetables are grown in profusion, while in many cases poultry are reared. In fact, every

GARDENS

inch of available ground seems to be utilised, to the profit of the occupier, who is also unconsciously trained in habits of observation, industry and thrift, and thereby rendered a more useful citizen. Even in cases where garden plots are very small, it is astonishing to find what a variety of produce can be cultivated. Almost every kind of fruit, vegetable, flower, and berry is grown, each variety being perhaps represented by only a few plants.

In almost every town and village in England, flower shows are held every year, at which money prizes are given for the best kept gardens and the finest specimens of flowers, fruit, and vegetables grown by the inhabitants of the district. Thus encouragement is given to the culture of flowers—that ennobling pastime which the great English philosopher Bacon truly declared to be the purest of all human joys. At the same time, the love of home is fostered—the bed-rock on which has been built the greatness of England.

Again, the British are better off than Indians in intellectual facilities. Public libraries are found in almost every town, and are open free to all classes, the rich and poor alike. Many of the libraries afford educational advantages as well as those of a literary character, lectures being given in them during the winter months on scientific and other subjects, from the popular point of view. The value of such lectures as these is strikingly shown by the case of Michael

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Faraday, the great physicist, who was one of the most eminent scientists the world has ever known. He was the son of a poor blacksmith, and developed a genius for making scientific apparatus. Through the kindness of a friend he was taken to hear Sir Humphry Davy, the inventor of the safety-lamp for use in coal-mines, lecture at the Royal Institution. Sir Humphry was so pleased with the notes the youth made of the lectures that he appointed him assistant in his laboratory, and he eventually succeeded him as public lecturer. He became famous all over the world, and the late Queen Victoria honoured him by giving him a residence at Hampton Court, where he spent his last years.

Turning to the question of recreation and amusements, here again a comparison between England and India is to the disadvantage of the latter. In India only a few dozen people may organise a gymkhana, and a limited number of games are obtained at a large outlay. Here in England the numerous athletic and other clubs which exist, with large membership, enable good sport to be had at very little cost.

The comfort enjoyed by Englishmen generally is everywhere apparent. Ordinary people are as nicely dressed here as the well-to-do in India, where clothing is not only dearer but of inferior quality to that in Great Britain. And not only is clothing dearer in India, but

THE TUBE RAILWAYS

travelling is much more pleasant, the third-class carriages on the British railways being quite equal to the first-class in the East. In contrast with the custom prevailing in India, attention is paid to the convenience and comfort of the whole of the public, irrespective of rank or class.

On the underground tube railways which intersect London, the class system is discarded, only one fare being charged, so that the British workman—the “horny-handed son of toil” as he is termed—may for all he knows, or perhaps cares, sit side by side in the train with a member of the aristocracy, or even a duke, the fustian thus mingling with the purple. His Royal Highness the late Duke of Cambridge, who performed the ceremony of publicly opening the Central London Tube Railway a few years ago, was noted for his unconventionality, and often enjoyed a trip on this democratic and popular line. He invariably carried a big umbrella, and became known as “the Umbrella Duke.” On one occasion the umbrella was accidentally knocked by a fellow passenger, a typical working man, who, unaware of the identity of the exalted personage, picked up the article and handed it to the Duke with the familiar sally, “Beg yer pardon, old sport.” The Duke of Cambridge, who had the reputation of being one of the finest sportsmen of his time, is said to have been fond of recounting the incident.

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One thing which struck me as a marked phase of English life was the clannishness of the people. *Esprit de corps* was especially noticeable among the Anglo-Indians, who seemed to know each other much better than their neighbours. This, of course, is helpful in a way, but exclusiveness has its disadvantages, and I cannot help observing that if the spirit of *camaraderie* and co-operation could be strengthened between the British and the natives in India, how great would be the potentialities for good! The power of communication of thought and opinion is one of the highest gifts, and its freedom is the source of a nation's advancement and happiness. Coming in contact with so many retired Anglo-Indians during my visit to England, the idea I had previously held was confirmed, that under existing circumstances India loses virtually all the wisdom that its officers have won by experience.

In India almost all the higher appointments are held by Europeans, and the direction of affairs is in their hands. Both the fixing of policy and the manner of its administration are determined by them. When officers first come to India they are in the embryo stage, and the brunt of their inexperience falls upon the country where their practical training is obtained. It may readily be conceived that serious injury may be done in individual cases thus before wisdom is learned. As an illustration I may mention the case of a doctor. Some of the best

INDIA'S LOSS

qualified English doctors are sent out to India, but in order that they may perfect their experience and gain knowledge they have to perform operations, which may sometimes involve the sacrifice of human life. Again, if the new-comer is an engineer, mistakes may be made in the pursuit of experience, which may not only prove costly but disastrous. The burden of complaint is that by the time officers gain experience, and after a comparatively few years' service in India, they retire from active life and return to England, to be replaced by other British officers who go through the same routine, with the result that the country is continually depleted of its best human material. As Indians have few facilities for gaining practical knowledge, which perhaps has been unavoidable in the past, the country is sapped of the ripeness of wisdom.

Were it possible for retiring officers to stay in the land of their adoption just as they remain at home after serving in their own country, all the experience and wisdom gained by them would be available for advising, and even guiding, the conduct of affairs. If one could imagine a state in which the population on reaching a certain age were sent away to another country and the community were left to youths and middle-aged men, that would exactly show the state of official society in India. The country would be bereft of veterans of ripe experience and wisdom, which forms so important a factor in

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

the life of a nation. This is a great drawback in the present system of Indian administration.

It is not easy to suggest a remedy. The climate is said to be a barrier against Europeans permanently settling in India, but I venture to suggest that Indians should be more largely employed in offices of trust, for when the time came for them to retire from active service they would stay in the country, and thus prevent wisdom and experience being lost to the nation. Obviously for a long time to come the administration must be largely manned by Europeans; therefore a way should be devised by which retired Britishers could remain in India for some time after superannuation. For this I would propose that after the officers retire from the service some of them, at least, might live in the districts with which they are familiar for three or four years; or, better still, some of them should come and spend the winter months in India. This would, of course, mean some extra cost, but it would be money well spent. One thing, however, must be clearly understood, that the retired officers, if they are to be useful to unofficial Indians, must largely associate with them as distinct from the official community, otherwise the condition of things would not be greatly changed.

Official guidance is welcomed and recognised as essential, and Indians appreciate the advantage of English direction and control. They, however, feel that they should be given the

A SUGGESTED REMEDY

opportunity of co-operating with the Government in its official administration. With the larger employment of natives and a continuation of residence of the retired British officers in the country, the difficulties of the present situation should be largely met.

CHAPTER XX

THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND

What pleasant visions haunt me,
As I gaze upon the sea !
All the old romantic legends,
All my dreams, come back to me.
LONGFELLOW.

It was a refreshing change after much travelling from place to place, and enduring the sultry air of London in the season, to seek rest and quiet amid the beauties of Kent, "the Garden of England," and the health-laden breezes of her sea-coast. We spent a delightful couple of months at Deal and Walmer, the society of several retired Anglo-Indians who reside in the neighbourhood greatly adding to the enjoyment of our visit. The summer season was at its height when we went to these resorts, which adjourn each other and are practically one. They were full of visitors, for August is the great holiday month of the year in England.

The scene was bright and animated, and a complete refutation of the gibe of the French philosopher, Froissart, that the English take

DEAL AND WALMER

their pleasures sadly. Dulness, it was evident, had no place at these favourite resorts. The well-paved sea-front, with its fine pier, comfortable-looking hotels and boarding-houses and handsome terraces, was crowded with promenaders in the coolest of summer apparel: the men for the most part in light flannel suits, and the ladies wearing bright dresses and hats of almost every colour. Strains of music ever and anon floated from the bandstand and contributed to the general gaiety; every one yielded to the spirit of enjoyment, and care was banished by pleasure's magic spell. Every seat on the esplanade had its quota of amusement seekers, and the beach also was literally alive with people, merry youngsters, pail and spade in hand, digging industriously along the shore, and their elders lazily reclining on the shingle, inhaling the bracing breezes or watching the ever-moving panorama of shipping, gliding majestically "on the breast of the ocean wave."

As one gazed upon the broad expanse of sea, one recalled the brave days of old, and the important and stirring part which Deal and Walmer have played in the nation's history. It was in this neighbourhood that Julius Caesar is said to have landed and been given a warm reception. In later years, off the North Foreland, England fought her first big naval engagement, and, effectively disposing of the French, instituted the series of maritime victories which were destined to give her that command of the sea

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which she enjoys to this day. In the time of King Henry VIII. castles were erected at Deal, Walmer, and Sandwich, to protect the coast from further attempts at invasion. With the exception of Sandwich Castle, which has been dismantled, these fortified buildings still remain as mementoes of the stormy and romantic past.

The chief of them, Walmer Castle, I had an opportunity of inspecting through the kindness of Lord Brassey, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, who with Lady Brassey very kindly showed the Rani and myself over the historic edifice. It was here that William Pitt, who was then Lord Warden, conferred with Nelson. After the famous battle of Trafalgar, the *Victory*, bearing the mortal remains of England's greatest Admiral, arrived and cast anchor off the Castle, to the infinite sorrow of Pitt, whose death is said to have been hastened by the sad spectacle. Subsequently the great Duke of Wellington became Lord Warden, and was visited by Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort. The bedroom occupied by Her Majesty is shown to visitors, and in her diary she referred to the pleasant time she spent at Walmer. On his death, the remains of the Iron Duke were laid in state in his room at the Castle, until removal for the grand public funeral a few days later in London, where practically the entire population turned out to pay homage to the illustrious soldier as he was borne to his rest in St. Paul's Cathedral. Among other relics we were shown the camp bedstead used by the Duke, the

THE CASTLES

chair in which he expired, his writing-table, the helmet and top-boots he wore at Waterloo, and a replica of the cast of his features taken after his death. A further interesting object was the curious chair used by Pitt, on which he sat astride, his arms on the back, which was contrived to form the double purpose of a book-ledge and rest. The Castle is surrounded by beautiful gardens, which, together with the adjacent picturesque glen, form an attractive feature of the locality. We were shown in the moat a very big and ancient fig tree, still bearing well, the like of which I should think could not be seen elsewhere in England.

Extremely interesting also is Deal Castle, which stands like a sentinel at the southern end of the esplanade. The official residence of Lord George Hamilton, the Captain of the Castle, it is a strong-looking structure with a central tower and battlements, and surrounded by the usual moat, with drawbridge. The rooms contain some very good pictures of Indian Chiefs who were present at the coronation of the late King-Emperor, Edward VII., also engravings of former Wardens, and others. Beneath the tower there is a big dungeon. We were very courteously received by Lord and Lady George Hamilton, and as his lordship has rendered his country signal service, first as Under Secretary and afterwards for many years as Secretary of State for India, we found much of mutual interest to discuss.

Both Deal and Walmer are well supplied with

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

facilities for the training of the young, a number of private educational establishments existing in the neighbourhood, while the public elementary schools leave little to be desired, and are superior to anything of the kind that we have in India. I paid visits to one of the primary schools in Canada Road, Walmer, where, as at Torquay, I was impressed by the completeness of the method of instruction imparted. Education being compulsory, well-equipped institutions of the kind are to be seen even in the smallest English villages.

An object of unfailing interest to visitors is the time ball, erected on the front, close to the bandstand. The apparatus was originally intended as a means for captains of ships to adjust their chronometers correctly, for which purpose the mechanism is electrically connected with Greenwich. The ball begins to ascend a few minutes to one, and falls punctually at that hour. Crowds assemble to watch the process during the visitors' season, and many find in it a convenient means of regulating their watches. The Royal Marine Light Infantry, in their smart blue uniform, are a conspicuous feature in the streets of Deal and Walmer. The barracks, which are in the latter district, provide accommodation for some 2000 men, with spacious dormitories, dining and recreation rooms, parade grounds, sports-field and swimming baths. There is also a commodious garrison church, the foundation-stone of which was laid by Lord George Hamilton.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Deal has an interesting municipal history, the first charter of incorporation being granted some two hundred years ago. This was repealed on the passing of the Municipal Reform Act, and replaced by a new charter. We were courteously shown over the municipal buildings by the Town Clerk (Mr. A. C. Brown), who first conducted us through the magistrates' rooms, where prisoners are tried and justice is meted out. Here were to be seen paintings of former mayors and other civic dignitaries, models of the old Deal luggers and other boats representative of the local fishing industry, and many relics of the Roman invasion, including coins, pottery ware, and portions of cinerary urns. In the adjoining council chamber, where the meetings of the local governing authority are held, we noticed on the walls a collection of portraits of past mayors, aldermen, and councillors, and before leaving the chamber we were invited to sign the visitors' book, in which we inscribed our names just below that of Lord Loreburn.

The Town Hall of Deal is of very modest pretensions, and might easily be passed unnoticed. The Council, however, have shown prudence in directing their expenditure as far as possible to works of utility instead of investing in costly buildings. They have effected important improvements during the past few years, especially in drainage and water supply, and the lighting and paving of the streets. The roads are admirably kept, and will bear favourable comparison with

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these of any other town in England. Close to the Town Hall is the Labour Exchange, in connection with the Board of Trade, where a register is kept of vacancies, for which free application may be made by those seeking employment. These labour exchanges are to be found all over the kingdom, and are connected by telephone, so that applicants for work can be passed on from one place to another, fares being advanced in needy cases. In smaller places, like Walmer, where there are no special offices for this purpose, the register of vacancies is exhibited in the window of the Post Office.

During our stay we enjoyed many pleasant motor drives to places of interest in the neighbourhood, more particularly to Sandwich, a quaint town of great antiquarian interest, which in olden times was a seaport of importance, but owing to the receding of the sea at this portion of the coast is now an inland town; also Ramsgate, with its big harbour and fishing industry; Margate, with its fine sands and cliffs; Folkestone with its handsome houses and lovely leas, and Dover, with its grand old castle, busy Marine-parade and attractive shops. Dover Castle is one of the most noble fortresses in the United Kingdom. Its walls and circling battlements have been successively built by the Phoenicians, Romans, Saxons, and Normans in turn, and we saw the horn which was blown from the summit of the building before lighthouses were known. One part of the fortress

THE GOODWIN SANDS

was built by Wellington at the time of the Napoleonic wars. There are nearly two miles of underground chambers and passages, which are now closed to the general public. We were, however, permitted to explore one of these caverns. With its auxiliary forts the castle is altogether a magnificent pile of buildings, which is seen to best advantage when viewed from the neighbouring country.

A trip to the famous Goodwin Sands formed one of the most enjoyable and thrilling experiences of our stay at Walmer. It was on a bright October afternoon when we set off from the beach in a capacious motor-boat, amply provisioned for a picnic. The sun shone brightly over the broad expanse of blue waters, and so genial was the air that the day might almost be said to have been borrowed from June. Scarcely a ripple disturbed the serene surface of the sea, but there was just enough breeze to float the Union Jack which our patriotic skipper ran up the masthead after we had started. He was a typical old "salt"—a fine, big, burly fellow, who seemed to know every inch of the silent highway, many stories of which he recounted as we passed the derelict portions of vessels which from time to time had foundered in these perilous parts. We saw the masts of the sunken *Mahratta*, a steamship of some six and a half thousand tons, which, plying between Calcutta and London, struck the hidden sand-banks four years ago and sunk with her cargo of jute,

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rubber, tea, etc. Our pilot himself was one of the brave men who went to her rescue, and he proudly related how all the crew were saved, a large quantity of the cargo being also recovered. Fragments of other stranded vessels were also visible, protruding through the water, and blackened by exposure to the elements. As we neared the Goodwins our genial skipper informed us that our boat was the vessel which accompanied the intrepid Burgess in his swim across the Channel to France.

After about an hour's ride, a thin brown ridge in the distance showed that we were near the sands, and changing into a smaller boat which had accompanied us, we rowed to a convenient landing-place, and were soon ashore. It was a distinctly novel sensation as we stepped on to what looked like a barren and deserted island. All around the waves lashed into white foam against the banks. We were for the nonce monarchs of all we surveyed, and held undisputed possession of the territory we occupied. As the sun poured down its warm rays a number of seals could be seen making for the place, and it looked as if our "kingdom" would be challenged. We prepared to welcome the strangers, and the more venturesome members of our party endeavoured to coax them, but deeming discretion the better part of valour, they changed their course and disappeared. "The seals often come out of the water at low tide and bask here in the sun," our guide explained.

A PLACE OF WRECKS

Standing on the sands, which became firm as the water left them on the change of tide, one could appreciate how they formed a natural barrier to break the waves, which in stormy weather would otherwise roll upon the shore with unchecked fury, and probably do great damage. In some places the sands sank beneath one's weight, the suction being distinctly felt, and one could easily imagine how a huge vessel driven upon them could soon be swallowed up within their vortex. When the tide is low, miles upon miles of these sand-banks can be seen, and we could realise their danger to navigation when concealed by the waters. Warning of their vicinity is given by light-ships with gongs and syrens for use in foggy weather, and numerous buoys are stationed.

Tradition says that the sands once formed part of the mainland, and that Julius Caesar landed here. It is also declared that the sands were once an island belonging to a former Lord Goodwin, and that it sank into the ocean as a mark of divine vengeance against the sins of that nobleman. Whatever their origin, the Goodwins have unhappily claimed many victims. Notwithstanding the precautions taken to minimise their danger, disasters still occur, and, as mentioned above, there are still evidences existing of the wrecks that lie

In ocean's wide domain,
Half-buried in the sand.

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

And a whole book could be written of the daring deeds of the brave heroes, like our gallant pilot and other sailors, who, in the blackness of the night and in the teeth of howling tempest, have gone fearlessly to the rescue of those in peril on the sea.

Probably few places in England arouse more reverent admiration than Canterbury. From Deal and Walmer it is a very beautiful drive to this ancient city, in which past and present are linked together in picturesque harmony. An old-world atmosphere pervades its quaint streets and narrow byways, which contain many fine specimens of mediaeval architecture. But, rich as they are, Canterbury does not depend merely upon its traditions to commend its fame. It has many other attractions, and its fine modern shops and handsome institute, free library, art gallery, and museum, together with its clubs and corn and hop exchanges, bear ample evidence that it has a large share of that civic spirit and commercial enterprise that stamp the up-to-date town.

It is, however, as the centre of English ecclesiastical life that Canterbury is chiefly known. It derives its importance mainly from the fact that the Archbishop of Canterbury is the Lord Primate of England, and that the city contains one of the grandest cathedrals in the world. This noble pile, in the precincts of which the Archbishop resides, was the first Christian church in England, dating back to

CANTERBURY

the days of St. Augustine and King Ethelbert. Embracing various styles of ecclesiastical architecture, from the crudest to the most elegant triumphs of Gothic art, it has passed through many vicissitudes. It narrowly escaped destruction at the hands of the Danes in 1011, was restored by Canute twelve years later, and was ruined by fire in 1067. It was re-built by Archbishop Lanfranc, after the Norman Conquest, and his successor Anselm pulled down and re-built the eastern part with more grandeur. Again suffering from the ravages of fire in the twelfth century, it rose in fresh magnificence from the ashes, and had its last addition in the great tower which was erected in 1495.

Here was the scene of the murder of Thomas à Becket, and the spot where he fell is shown. It was in the crypt that Queen Elizabeth allowed the Protestants from Normandy to set up their looms, and even now their descendants are permitted to use a part of the crypt as their place of worship, where service is carried on in French. Amongst other historical objects are the tombs of the Black Prince, King Henry IV. and his Queen, his son and brother, and several prelates. This beautiful edifice as it now stands forms in itself an interesting study of the progress of ecclesiastical art and architecture, and the various influences which have surrounded it.

When I saw the place where once stood the shrine of Thomas à Becket (which was destroyed

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

at the time of the Reformation) and was told of the penance of King Henry II., together with other tales of the various pilgrims and miracles, and when I witnessed the deep impression made by the constant kneelings of thousands of men who had come to pray beside the shrine of the Saint, I was forcibly reminded of the religious beliefs of my own country, and realised that the West not very long ago was passing through the same stage of blind faith as the East is charged with at the present day.

Another thing that struck me here was the way in which links with past history and tradition are rigorously preserved in European countries. Historians relate with tolerable accuracy when and where a particular incident happened. Our own country is very old and rich in ancient tradition. But it has suffered very cruelly from invasions, pillage, burnings, and revolutions; then the ever-present peepul tree also helps to ruin the old structures. All these have combined to leave very few edifices intact, not to mention other objects of historical interest. Moreover we lack very sadly the historical sense that we find to be so keen among the peoples of Europe. There it is quite common to point to stained glass seven or eight centuries old, and it is marvellous to notice how all objects of historical interest are preserved there, whether in a palace, a chapel, or the country-house of a nobleman. Although England may not be able to boast of an ancient

ARCHÆOLOGICAL PRESERVATION

civilisation, the authentic information about the past of the country more exactly connects it to an older age than is the case in India. We are proud of the antiquity of our country, and were rich in our ancient civilisation, but very little of historical interest remains intact, and what little we possess relates mainly to mythological personages.

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CHAPTER XXI

EASTERN AND WESTERN CUSTOMS

The slaves of Custom are the sport of Time.
BACON.

Happiness consists not so much in the richness of one's possessions as in the fewness of one's wants.—GOLDSMITH.

THE truths contained in the foregoing quotations may be said to be especially applicable to the manners and customs of Eastern and Western countries. If Indians, as a custom-bound nation, have had to suffer owing to being kept, as it were, in water-tight compartments, on the other hand the English, who are prone to change, need to be reminded that self-indulgence exacts its penalty in discontent. Real advancement is, perhaps, to be found in the golden mean. Every country has its own customs and manners, and each is either fond or proud of its characteristic usages. If this is so in the case of nations in close proximity, such as France and England, much more true is it of nationalities so widely separated as Great Britain and India, where the differences are accentuated by climate, tempera-

MODES OF DRESS

ment, past traditions, and varying ideas of propriety and comfort.

It would be a by no means easy task to adequately describe the diversity of customs and manners pertaining to these two peoples, and as they are for the most part well known, I do not propose to dilate upon them here. Some of the customs have existed from time immemorial, their origin being lost in the mists of antiquity ; others are of a local character, and apply to certain districts only. It has to be borne in mind, however, that there is some general foundation for a habit or practice which has existed for a long period amongst a community. It may be climatic, or based upon conceptions of propriety which have been engendered by the traditions of centuries.

I may note in passing that there is as much divergence between the Eastern and Western modes of dress as there is between East and West themselves. Climate and convenience have no doubt played a great part in fixing the national attire in each country. India generally being very warm, the people wear clothes that are loose and light. The idea is, of course, to allow the access of as much fresh air as possible to the body, for air is the natural food of the skin, and is indispensable to health. Such, however, is not the case in the West, where close-fitting apparel is both necessary and useful. It keeps men ready for action, and that is the disposition of Europeans in contra-

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distinction to the indolent, easy-going habits of Orientals.

For one who has been brought up in Indian ways, however, it is difficult to understand the utility of stiff collars and tight-fitting boots and shoes. Whatever may be the reason for them (and they serve a really useful purpose no doubt), there is no denying their discomfort, which Europeans themselves admit. I know of nothing more calculated to upset one's equanimity than the struggle involved in the adjustment of a new and highly-glazed English collar, unless it be the ordeal of becoming accustomed to the torture of narrow boots. The encirclement of the neck in adamant tightness to a depth of some two and a half inches, and the cramping of the feet in a hard casement made from animal carcase, are forms of penance to which only a European can willingly submit.

But even these eccentricities of male attire are less of an enigma to the uninitiated than those now in vogue among ladies—the exposed neck, the hobble skirt, and the slit dress with open side, revealing the quality of the underwear. These surely mark the acme of unbecoming absurdity. Some of the hats worn by European ladies, too, are fearfully and wonderfully made, the profusion of flowers with which they are adorned resembling a miniature garden.

Custom in dress is liable to as many changes as the weather in the British Isles, and one scarcely knows what monstrosity will next be

THE CAPRICES OF FASHION

adopted by what are called the "smart set." People are in such comfortable circumstances that they can satisfy every whim, and it is to the advantage of traders to encourage the craze for novelty, as it stimulates business. What struck me in England was that everybody seemed to be particularly anxious to follow the fashion. Once a new fashion gets started, to borrow the catch phrase of a popular English song, it soon becomes a case of "Everybody's doing it." "You might as well be dead as to be out of the fashion" is a remark often heard, and this appeared to be the general feeling, especially in the larger centres of population. Fashion seems to be quite a tyrant. How it brings about its frequent cycle of change nobody seems to know, or care. It may originate in an innovation adopted by a popular actress or an effeminate dandy; at any rate, once the ball is set rolling, it trundles merrily through all grades of society, from the aristocracy to the merely wealthy, the well-to-do to the middle classes, and from them even to working folk.

Although there are no castes in England, society is sharply divided into classes, and the line of demarcation is clearly defined. The higher classes, naturally, do not desire to dress in a similar way to their less fortunate brethren. Then the spirit of emulation is strong amongst those immediately below the aristocracy. It seems to be a craze amongst certain classes of people to imitate their social superiors and create a

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false impression as to their real position ; and as, generally speaking, there is no lack of money in the country, people are able to indulge in their favourite habit of imitation and their propensity to invest in "something new." Europeans in general, English-speaking people in particular, are very fond of a change. This not infrequently leads to excesses and vulgar ostentation, as in the case of the enormously costly "freak dinners" and other prodigal displays which sometimes break out like an epidemic among the ultra-wealthy American millionaires.

While welcoming the social progress which has accompanied modern civilisation, one cannot but view with a certain measure of misgiving the tendency to undue luxury, the futility of which is enforced in the touching story of the early life of Ghautma Buddha. The only son of a king, it was foretold that he would be an ascetic, so his father took elaborate care to keep him from coming in contact with anything gloomy, and surrounded him with all the good things of the world. After he had reached early manhood, the son one day escaped the bounds of the palace domain and went into the city, unexpectedly confronting its sorrow and suffering. For the first time he saw an old man. "Do all men grow old?" he asked. "Yes," was the reply, and Ghautma learned that life was not perpetual youth. Then he saw a sick person and found that people became ill. Afterwards he saw a corpse, and he then realised that people

BUDDHA'S DISILLUSIONMENT

had to die. He learned that life was transitory, and that riches alone could not bring happiness or immunity from suffering. Ghautma made up his mind to retire to the seclusion of the woods, and, renouncing the comfort and pleasure of wife and home, and dispensing with chariot and horses, he journeyed to the end of the forest. After dismissing his servant, he kept as his sole possession a cup from which to drink. On reaching a pool, however, he saw a man drinking water from the palm of his hand, and he realised that even the cup he had retained was not necessary. The moral is obvious, and shows how few are one's real necessities in the earthly life, which is but a stage in the pilgrimage to the Great Beyond—the Elysian life to come.

Notwithstanding their obedience to the caprices of fashion, the English people generally are conservative in their customs. They hesitate to take a step which would make them conspicuous and the butt of ridicule ; on the other hand, when once an innovation is introduced it soon becomes recognised and adopted, and then many have not the courage to stick to the old state of things and risk being considered out of date. This conservatism is shown by reluctance to adapt themselves to a new environment, as for instance in India. In this respect, the English are unlike the Dutch, who try to accommodate themselves to the climate in Java, and partly conform to some of the Oriental ways, not only in the matter of dress, but also in the lighter

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food and drinks which are more suited to life in the tropics. If the English would take this hint from the Dutch, they would find that India is not so bad and intolerable to live in as is sometimes supposed.

Speaking of food, I am reminded of another difference between Eastern and Western ways, more particularly as regards the use of that prime necessity of existence, water. In the East, this is far more generally resorted to than here. It is the custom to rinse the mouth both before and after meals, and baths are taken at least once every day, and sometimes more often. Indians do not use a tub or ordinary bath, like the English, but adopt the cleaner process of dashing fresh water on the body. In the hotels in Java, the Dutch have a combination of both systems. Here, again, it must be noted that in winter, unless heated water is available, it is more desirable to be inside a bath than to pour water on the body. The latter method also makes one feel lighter after a bath. The copious use of water for drinking purposes is a factor in the promotion of health which is not sufficiently recognised by the English. In the war between Japan and Russia the Japanese soldiers carried filters, and had a regulation supply of two or three gallons of drinking-water per day. To this fact we may largely attribute their freedom from disease, and the hardiness and power of endurance which served them in such good stead in the campaign.

WOMEN EAST AND WEST

The treatment of women is another matter on which East and West differ widely. The desire to show respect to women is quite common all over Western Europe ; in fact, "women first" is there the general motto. It is the ever-prevailing sense of chivalry on the part of men which secures the liberty of European women, and enables them to go about freely in public. In England especially there is as much liberty for women as for men. There is no restraint ; a woman can walk out and travel alone without fear of molestation, and no one dares to obstruct or impede her, let alone insult her in public. Any interference with her would at once arouse strong feelings of resentment on the part of any one happening to witness it.

This is in striking contrast with the position of women in India, where a few years ago it was necessary to take steps for their protection if they were taken out, for in the case of petty annoyances native help and sympathy could not be relied upon if assistance were necessary. There is no valid reason why women should not be able to go out without restraint in India, but such a change cannot come about until there is created in the native mind the British sense of chivalry. India cannot improve in material wealth and comfort unless women learn greater self-reliance and personal responsibility. In fact, they should form a help in all the undertakings of members of the family, instead of

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being so dependent upon others, and having to be looked after and guarded.

The accepted theory is that the seclusion of women has been copied from the Mahomedans ; and a Hindu gentleman resident with his wife in England remarked to me in conversation that in India the Mahomedans are a stumbling-block in the way of the advancement of women, because Hindu women alone would not renounce the purdah unless the Mahomedans did the same, or at any rate did not ridicule and chaff Hindu women when they happened to be out. However this may be, a change is in progress. In any case it is not possible for the women of one caste or sect to become more advanced than the others without being subjected to the ignominy of being called "firebrands." Some sacrifice must be made ; some inconvenience has to be suffered ; but these are the penalties of all advancement and reform. Personally, I am not prepared to go so far in these matters as Europeans have gone ; nevertheless a change is necessary, and the progress being made inspires hope.

The general respect and pre-eminence accorded to women in European society may be traced to the particular meaning which came to be attached to the word chivalry in later days. In early times it connoted all the noble virtues and brave accomplishments of the valiant knight ; it indicated the sacrifice and protection that he owed to the weak and oppressed. In later days the term chivalry as popularly understood related to

CHIVALRY

only one characteristic of the virtuous knight, and connoted one particular duty towards woman-kind in general and his "lady-love" in particular. I may here point out the useful purpose the institution served from its inception, and also the debt that Western civilisation owes to it. It gave the rough, unpolished, but at the same time noble and truthful people of the time a standard for the recognition of the claims of the poor and helpless, especially women, and the sense of sacrifice they owed to them. Though in course of time this standard was narrowed down, there were occasions when the powerful arm of a knight struck blows for the needy and the oppressed. And so chivalry gave a then needed protection to woman at the hands of society.

Chivalry had its prototype in the sense and virtue of *pativrata* in the Indian woman. Like chivalry, this term originally had a wider meaning, and only in the course of time came to connote one particular phase of housewifely duty—that of chastity. As a knight was expected to make every sacrifice to please his lady-love, or gratify even her caprice, so is an Indian woman expected always to court her husband's good before her own, and to serve and abide by each of his behests. Chivalry in the West demanded in later times every mark of respect and superiority to women. *Pativrata* in the East claimed respect, attention, and superiority for man. Just as chivalry makes a woman the embodiment of virtue, making her worthy of man's respect and

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protection, *pativrata* makes woman realise the superiority of man, and his claims on her respect and obedience.

Indians had no need for the new European cult of chivalry in mediaeval times to teach response to the claims of the poor and suffering. Neither were they lacking in the sense of duty and sacrifice they owed to their king, their elders, and their womankind. The sense of chivalry in its widest application throbbed in the hearts of Indians when they were prompted to make many of the noblest efforts that the world has known. India was second to none in her power of self-sacrifice and attention to the needs of those to whom self-sacrifice is due, viz. the elders (*Guru-janas*) and the weak, needy, and suffering. India flourished splendidly as long as she was guided by these ideals, and only deviation from them hastened her fall.

What is wanted at the present day is a combination of these two ideals, chivalry and *pativrata*. If the West has to teach chivalry as it is now understood to the East, she can reciprocate the lesson. India was once happy in possessing a combination of these two virtues when man and woman recognised and adored each other as superior in their particular sphere, as instanced by the lives of Rama and Sita or Damayanti and Nala. The country could then boast of thousands of excellent men and women whom any land would be proud to possess. The sense of *pativrata* is still very strong in her

ENGLISH HABITS

daughters, while Western education is inculcating the ideas of chivalry in the minds of her youths, and I am sure that if extremes are avoided in the prosecution of these ideals, a bright future awaits our Motherland.

The English are clean and methodical in their habits, meal-times are regular, and the work of the household is thereby facilitated. English people generally work hard during business hours, and play with equal zest in their time of leisure. One matter which agreeably impressed me in England was the decrease which I was informed is taking place in the consumption of alcoholic liquor, with a consequent lessening of crime, and improvement both in the health of the people, and their moral tone.

With the decline of drinking, the people are going in more and more for a higher type of amusements and intellectual pleasures. At first sight, it would seem as if life were becoming more luxurious for the rich and well-to-do ; but I was assured that the general standard is being raised. And if such should happily prove to be the case, then the outlook for Western civilisation is distinctly hopeful. Youth is, of course, everywhere a hive of exuberance ; in manhood, pleasures partake of a more sober nature. With increasing years men incline to moderation ; and the mind gradually and almost unconsciously turns to higher pursuits, to the contemplation of the eternal verities and to that infinite life of the

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unknown future which is the world's great hope.

And as it is with individuals, so is it with nations. After all, one should not be very dogmatic about unfamiliar customs. I must confess to a certain amount of prejudice regarding those of the West when I came to England, but, as I have previously remarked, each of them has some utility. Some proved to be not as bad as at first glance I was inclined to imagine. The great thing is to extract the good from each. Let us after all take the human point of view, not seeking to ridicule but to improve. In this, as in all judgments of our fellowmen, we should strive to cultivate the generous spirit, and be

Blind to a fault, and willing to forgive,
Living for others, and, living, letting live.

In this way will the golden sunshine of happiness suffuse our lives. As each ship on the ocean may take a different course and ultimately reach the same haven, so is it with the voyage of life. Each smile on a fair face, each flower is worth keeping if we knew but how, and every life has something of its own worth giving to the world.

CHAPTER XXII

ENGLISH EDUCATION

'Tis education forms the common mind ;
Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined.

POPE.

WITH true prophetic foresight Lord Rosebery, one of England's foremost orators, declared not very long ago that the coming struggle between the great nations of the world would not be of a sanguinary character ; it would be a battle of brains, a commercial war in which applied education would be the determining factor. The combat is already in progress. Germany is forging ahead of her rivals in many respects on account of the great educational facilities she has now for many years bestowed upon her huge population ; France and America are taking foremost rank in scientific invention owing to the same cause ; while England realises that in the completeness of the mental equipment of her rising generation is to be found the surest guarantee of the maintenance of her commercial supremacy.

I could not fail to notice the paternal solicitude and care shown by the State in the training of

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the young of Great Britain. Not only is elementary education compulsory and free throughout the British Isles, but in several places, thanks to the co-operation of the benevolent public, meals and even boots are provided for the children of very poor parents, in order that there may be no valid reason for keeping them away from school. The children themselves require no coaxing to go. As already indicated I had opportunities of inspecting primary schools in various towns I visited, and on the whole the scholars seemed to be happy in their tasks, and grasped well the lessons they were taught. Although the general curriculum is laid down by the Board of Education, methods of instruction differ somewhat.

In the infant schools kindergarten teaching is popular and successful. This system aims at the awakening of the child's interest spontaneously by organised games and attractive object-lessons, and is directed towards the simple and harmonious development of all the faculties, mental, moral and physical. The public elementary schools provide, on the whole, a good general education for children up to the age of fourteen, and their equipment in the way of appliances would do credit to some of the chief educational institutions and colleges in India. Then there is an organised system of scholarships to enable the more promising pupils to pass up from the primary to the secondary schools, and thence to the universities.

EVENING SCHOOLS

The next rung in the educational ladder is to be found in what are called evening continuation schools, attendance at which is optional, and where, for a nominal fee, instruction may be obtained in such subjects as book-keeping, drawing, commercial correspondence, shorthand, wood-carving, modern languages, dressmaking, cookery, etc. By these means young people of both sexes on leaving school and entering employment are enabled to continue their education; they are encouraged to do so by some employers, who allow time off for the purpose. Then in all large towns are to be found technical schools and polytechnics, where opportunities are provided for young workers to study handicraft, building construction, commercial subjects, languages, and the principles of science and art applicable to their particular calling. Thus not only have the workers been improved, but the country has benefited by their ability to execute the various manufactures to greater perfection than formerly. With so many facilities placed within the reach of the Britisher, not even our best artisans in India can hope to successfully compete against him. Education of the highest type may be the goal of the poorest in England, whereas in India it is mainly reserved for the very well-to-do.

In addition to the State-provided institutions, there are, of course, numerous private schools and colleges. Among these I visited the City and Guilds' Engineering College and Westminster School. At the former, which is connected with

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the London University, very solid technical instruction is given. I was also very much impressed with Westminster, which is of the older public school type, but not very costly, where the relations between teacher and pupil seem to be of a restrained and dignified order. The last rung of the educational ladder is provided by the universities. I went to see the offices of the London University, which has gained for itself the reputation of setting up a very high standard of excellence. It has a first-rate library and splendidly equipped laboratory, where I saw the instrument that reveals the beating of the heart—one of the latest achievements in medical science. It is worthy of note that the University of London was the first to admit women to degrees. Oxford and Cambridge still withhold the degree, but make ample provision for women to pursue the same courses of study as men.

A useful supplement to the ordinary educational facilities is to be found in the University Extension movement, by which the Universities endeavour to spread their culture beyond their own geographical areas. Competent lecturers are engaged to visit various towns for the purpose of giving courses of lectures on subjects with which they are specially qualified to deal, including science, literature, philosophy, economics, ethics, etc., together with questions of general interest to the labouring classes. The topics are all dealt with in popular style, to bring them within the understanding of all hearers. The

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

fees charged average about 7s. 6d. a course of three or four lectures. The immediate object is to stimulate the ordinary intelligent inquirer, while also giving direction and aid to the more professed student. Books are recommended for reading, courses of study are mapped out, and examinations are held for those who care to submit to the ordeal. After each lecture a class is held in which the subject is treated in greater detail, and students have an opportunity of receiving help in their individual difficulties. Paper work is set and corrected each week for those who wish to avail themselves of such an aid to methodical study. We attended one of these lectures during our stay in Walmer, where a course was being given on the subject of "The Conditions of Modern Industry and their Remedy (Industrial Peace)," by Mr. E. L. S. Horsburgh, B.A., of Queen's College, Oxford.

In this connection something must be said of the religious side of English education, and its bearing on one of the greatest of Indian problems. I had laboured under the supposition that England was a country of materialistic tendencies ; but on a first-hand acquaintance I was surprised to find that religion plays a really important part in the life of the people. Every village, town, and parish, each college, all the big schools, and even workhouses and prisons have their own place of worship. As in India, higher education and religious education were synonymous in England two or three centuries

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ago. Now in England religion has become only one of the many objects of instruction. But the educational system is imbued with it generally to a great extent, and it helps to give stamina to the character of the students.

To say the least, every nation needs a religion, to explain the necessity of the due observance of the code of morality. Religion and morality are the essential instruments that help to build a virile, honest character. No nation can hope to prosper without a strong moral code, based on sound, firm, religious principles. Some people who have thought and reasoned carefully, but on mistaken notions, become agnostics; others are the happy-go-lucky sort of people who have no time to take life seriously at all, and have no regard or thought for the beneficent Creator of the universe. Almost every person has to pass through some ordeal in life when he needs religion, either to give him strength to withstand temptation or to impart solace. The Britisher of strong common sense seems to have realised that it is the duty of the nation to teach her younger generation the religion of their parents, that it ought to be taught to them until at least they can think and reason soundly for themselves.

It is, however, a marvel to me to see how a people brought up in such traditions as the British can fail to recognise that religion should form part of the education of the rising generation in India, the guidance of whose

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

destiny has providentially fallen into their hands. It is urged that religious education under State auspices is very difficult in India owing to the different faiths prevailing amongst the population. But I have seen religious education imparted throughout England in almost every school and college in spite of the various forms of the Christian faith there prevalent. This system is found to work smoothly and satisfactorily, although the people at large have only recently learned the lesson of toleration.

In India, on the contrary, the Hindu religion with all its sects and forms has from time immemorial been acknowledged as the most tolerant of systems ; therefore this obstacle of plurality of sects ought not to come in the way of the sincere efforts now being made for the promotion of religious education amongst the children in India. It is true that these endeavours are started and carried on in England and other European countries mainly by the denominational schools, which the public support. However advisable it may be for Indians to devise their own means to start such institutions, it must not be forgotten that in India the day is still far distant when we shall see a strong expression of public spirit in movements of universal interest. India, however, is so vast, and so many factors have to be taken into account, that no general advance could be undertaken throughout the country without the initiative and active support of the Government.

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

We have been watching with growing disgust the unfortunate results accruing from giving our boys education which leaves them without any regard for the religion and the traditions of their people. The recent troubles in India are more or less the direct result of this divorce of religion from education. Not having learned to fear God, they have no respect for man, or at least they have lost all sense of reverence for religious, political, or civil authority. The policy of the Indian Government has always been avowed neutrality; and that has led to the absence of the religious element from the instructional system. The Government have at last found that the policy of *laissez faire* does not lead to the betterment of the general mass of the Indian population, and have begun to actively help the weaker and backward classes.

I would humbly suggest that what is true in other matters is true also in the matter of moral and religious education, and that this policy of tolerance should be construed as non-interference with a particular faith, while facilities are offered for the children to be taught the faith in which they were born. The Government has acknowledged this principle in the special cases of the Sindhis and the Burmans. I believe no substantial results can be obtained by individual private effort in other Indian provinces, unless the Government makes religious instruction a more or less recognised part of the curriculum of education. At present the only

INDIA'S NEED

really religious education imparted is that of the Christian faith. Things are better as they are if that is to be the only faith that is to be supported by Government as a State religion. This lack of recognition of religious education creates a misunderstanding in the mind of the public that this is due to the influence of missionaries, although people who have given any thought to the subject can easily appreciate the real motive of the Government. I have nothing to say against the work of the missionaries. On the contrary I know and appreciate their efforts for the betterment of the general population of India, particularly their Christian brethren. But I do not know whether they would care for this State recognition of faiths other than their own.

Efforts are being made by some other sectarians, like the Sikhs in the Punjab ; and in some parts of Southern India private endeavours to introduce moral and religious education in the schools and colleges are in progress. The Central Hindu College at Benares is an example of what can be achieved in such directions. I do not here refer pointedly to Mahomedan institutions, because this question of religion and religious education is with them more simple. But, as I have hinted, these are all local and solitary instances based on sectarian principles. What I should like to see is the movement taken up by the Government and the general public, and worked up to such efficiency as will

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

enable our younger generation to grow up more steady and God-fearing.

I have been thinking over this problem so keenly and so long that for some years I have taken every opportunity to draw thereto the attention of the Government in Council and out of Council, and that of the public at large, particularly those who have the guiding strings of the educational policy in their hands. I am, however, disappointed to note that the people in my part of the country who have gone through the present university curriculum are unsympathetic towards this idea. The education they have received seems to make it impossible for them to recognise that the thing is necessary and feasible.

It would have been fortunate if there had been only one religion in India embodying the religious hopes and ideas of her vast population. But the contrary being the case, we must brace ourselves up to more strenuous efforts to achieve our end, and not allow ourselves to be daunted by the apparent delicacy and difficulty of the task. The recent horrible political crimes must goad us to real, sustained work, and we must be awake to the great issues at stake. It is for Government to see that the excellent education they are giving in India does not fail to afford adequate moral and religious training. I hope the day is not far distant when we shall see the movement fairly launched with the active aid of our solicitous Government, and steering its course to success, clear of the obstacles it is sure to meet at every turn.

CHAPTER XXIII

PUBLIC SERVICES

The first wealth is health.

EMERSON.

WITH the spread of knowledge the preservation of health has become a matter of increasing interest to the people. In olden times, epidemic diseases were regarded as inevitable, and very little was done to prevent their ravages. It is now generally known that these diseases are due to exposure to infection (to which privation and emaciation renders one susceptible), to disregard of the laws of hygiene, to defective drainage, and insanitary housing conditions. Personal attention to cleanliness and proper nutrition are the first essentials to health, and without these the most elaborate arrangements of local sanitary authorities will be nullified. On the other hand a man's habits may leave nothing to be desired, and yet he may be poisoned by impure water, or defective drainage. Hence the importance of local governing authorities taking steps to protect the public.

This is done in England with a completeness

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of detail which it would be to the advantage of India to emulate. Under the Public Health Acts, local authorities are empowered to appoint sanitary inspectors whose duty it is to inspect the drains of houses whenever it is deemed necessary, and to keep a watchful eye over the food supplies of their district. If any meat, fish, fruit, milk or other food exposed for sale is contaminated, these officials may seize it and have it removed, to be dealt with by the magistrate, who may order it to be destroyed. Proceedings may afterwards be taken against the shopkeeper or owner of the food, who is liable to heavy fines, and in the case of subsequent conviction, to imprisonment. Food adulteration is dealt with under another law, the Food and Drugs Act. The sanitary inspector is thereby authorised to enter any shop and purchase any food for analysis, such as milk, butter, etc. After making the purchase he must divide the article into three separate portions, which are respectively sealed; one of these he offers to the vendor, retaining the second portion himself, and taking the third to the public analyst. Should the food on analysis prove to be adulterated, the person selling the article may be prosecuted, and is liable to a heavy penalty.

Cleanliness is not only a personal but also a public question. For the poor who have not accommodation for baths in their own houses, local authorities are permitted to erect public baths, where for a small fee a bath can be obtained.

SANITATION

Many towns, I noticed, provide not only private baths but also swimming baths. I visited one of these in London, and was glad to learn that they are not only used by the public but that school children are taken to them by their teachers and taught to swim. Most of the baths also have wash-houses attached, where women can do their family washing, and thus obviate the inconvenience of cleaning their linen in small houses, or the single rooms which serve as homes for poor people in large towns, where the high rents charged forbid their renting a house to themselves. Every urban house is compelled to keep a dust-bin for the storage of refuse, which is collected weekly by dustmen in the employ of local authorities and afterwards burned in dust destructors or otherwise disposed of.

Proper drainage is another necessity of health, and to ensure this every town has a sewerage system which receives the drainage of individual houses. The sewage is carried beyond the limits of the town, and after treatment is used to fertilise farms or is pumped into the sea beyond low tide. The water supply in villages is often derived from wells, as in Indian hamlets, but in towns it is obtained by means of pipes from lakes and rivers, and passes through huge filter-beds before consumption. The sanitary precautions adopted in recent years have resulted in a material reduction of disease, fever being comparatively rare in England, while small-pox has been all but stamped out. In the latter advance-

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ment, however, vaccination has played no small part.

As an indication of the change for the better which has been effected, it may be mentioned that in London alone the death-rate has fallen by over 30 per cent within the present generation. Typhus, like small-pox, has practically vanished, and measles and consumption have been reduced by one-third. Not only the local sanitary authorities, but the central body, the London County Council, is ever on the alert attacking disease wherever it can be traced. Among the precautions taken may be cited the medical examination of school children, particularly their teeth and eyesight. Lady doctors and nurses visit the schools, search out sickness and uncleanness, follow them to the home, and endeavour to purge house and schools of these evils. Generally, under pressure of an enlightened health administration, not only has there been a marked reduction of the death-rate, but longevity has been materially increased—a consummation that is desired by every living creature.

The postal and telegraphic arrangements in England are admirable. There are so many deliveries every day in the towns and cities, and the train service is so quick and frequent that news is carried from place to place within a very short time. We are quite familiar with the good work being done by the postal and telegraphic department in India; but here in

THE POST OFFICE

England it is excelled. One misses, however, one or two postal conveniences that are provided in my country. I refer more particularly to the money order and value payable systems. Here, of course, one can buy postal and money orders, but there is an absence of the banking facilities obtainable in India. By the value payable system a trader can send small parcels of goods to his customer, and these are delivered when the monetary value has been collected by the Post Office. It is naturally a very convenient way of carrying on business on the cash principle. In transactions on a small scale, this system is very handy and useful. It is a little surprising that it is not in vogue in England. The reason for this would seem to be not the lack of enterprise on the part of the postal authorities, or any unwillingness on their side to serve the public. It is probably to be found in the opposition which would be aroused by the vested interests—the middle men and smaller tradesmen who would be affected if the Post Office undertook this business.

In order to test the efficiency and resources of the department we wrote a letter in one of the Indian vernaculars, addressed the envelope in the same language, and sent it to a gentleman residing in India. We were curious to know what would become of it, and awaited results. When a long time had elapsed, we thought it had found its way to the waste-paper basket at the dead-letter office. But one fine morn-

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ing we found to our surprise that the missive though belated had reached its destination, and had been duly delivered. What had happened apparently was that the letter was sent to India and afterwards returned, and then forwarded to the addressee, whose address had been translated into English.

Everything in Europe, especially in England, seems to be on a larger scale than in India. The men and women are stronger and bigger, so also are the children to be seen playing, and the babies who are taken out regularly for an airing in their perambulators. The horses and carts and the loads they draw after them are enormous, judged by Indian standards. The cattle, the sheep, the pigs and the poultry are the same. The trees are generally stately, of good proportions and well preserved, and they present an enchanting appearance. Again, the fruits and vegetables are much larger than those usually seen in Indian markets.

The towns, the streets, public buildings, shops, and places of public amusement are no exception to this larger standard. The mills, factories, industrial and business places are altogether on a grander scale than we can hope to see in Asia for a long time to come. The trains and the engines that draw them, the steamships and other provisions for travel are big affairs. So also are the parks and gardens. One rarely sees such extensive, well laid-out and excellently maintained public resorts in India.

BRITISH STANDARDS

Nothing seems to be done on a poor scale in Great Britain. Ironical as the observation may appear, even the poverty here is as extensive and acute as the richness and luxury are conspicuous. Indeed, riches and poverty would almost seem to go hand in hand. Behind the most luxurious thoroughfares in the richest and greatest city in the world may be seen the meanest streets and most wretched dwellings. There is a saying here that "God made the country, and man made the town," and the reality of this is seen in the striking contrasts I have just mentioned. The country is fertile and its children are enterprising; both men and women are hardworking, and everything they touch grows big.

The only exceptions to this rule are the greater works of Nature, the rivers and mountains, which are of modest proportions, save in Scotland, where the mountains and lakes are majestic. The rivers near the estuaries all over the British Isles are big expanses of water, and this fact facilitates the huge maritime traffic which affords an outlet to the enterprise of the nation.

CHAPTER XXIV

PUBLIC OPINION

He that complies against his will
Is of the same opinion still.

BUTLER.

THERE is a belief in some quarters that owing to the caste system, public opinion is very strong in India ; but it is not so. Provided you do not openly violate the rules regarding eating, drinking, and marriage, you can do almost anything under the sun without paying the penalty for it socially. Any ordinary departure from the conventional may arouse comment, and, in one or two instances, disapproval may be expressed, but the penalty of ostracism is not often inflicted. The caste system has become more or less fossilised, and, save in the limited respects indicated, has ceased to be a living organisation for the purpose of preventing people from breaking rules.

In England, on the other hand, though there is the greatest possible liberty of action for the individual, there are few who would be so bold as to risk being conspicuous by adopting any

CONVENTIONALISM

innovation which would outrage the conventions of society. The English people have the reputation of being very democratic. To my mind they are democratic in this sense, that they cannot very readily tolerate anything out of the common. In other words, they are democratic in their habits and conservative in their methods. While hesitating to take a step which would render them the butt of ridicule, when once the ball is set rolling they follow it with eagerness.

Many English people, I was surprised to find, do not give deep thought to public questions. They seem to be either too much absorbed in the task of earning their daily bread, or are ignorant or indifferent, or they content themselves with mechanically echoing the opinions proclaimed by their political leaders or the newspapers they read for the time being. It is easy to understand that public opinion formed without due thought on the part of the people may not lead to very good results. It is the same kind of opinion that may be seen in the rush of a flock of sheep after the bell-wether. In so far as communities approximate more or less closely to flocks of sheep, to that extent the term "public opinion" is a misnomer.

Since England, especially in local and municipal affairs, has reached a real approach to government by public opinion, it is essential for the people to make themselves acquainted with the

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civic questions which from time to time they are called upon to decide, and so help to form an intelligent and healthy public opinion. In the administration of a small community there is the best opportunity for government by public opinion. Every one is more or less personally interested in the questions that come up for discussion ; every one, therefore, is more likely to be at the trouble to think, and so to have an opinion of his own. Though such is the case, paradoxical as it may seem, large sections of the community are apathetic in respect to public affairs. In local elections, I am told, only about a third of the electors take the trouble to record their votes, while a large proportion are unable to give the names of the candidates soliciting their support.

Public opinion in a small community like that of a village is created in the first place by gossip, and in the informal gathering of neighbours. Then public meetings are held in halls for the purpose of hearing speeches delivered more or less informally. These are listened to by audiences which, excepting when expressing pleasure or dissent, take no part in the discussion. Each town and village in England has its own hall or meeting-place, the elementary schools, even, being available. Thus the formation of civic interest, instead of being confined to one centre, goes on simultaneously all over the country. The various local governing authorities each in turn become centres for the education and evolution of public opinion.

THE SUFFRAGETTES

Again, societies are formed for the advancement of certain movements, and no sooner are they set in motion than efforts are made by those who think differently to check their progress by starting antagonistic societies, which procedure often rouses feeling to white heat, and leads to wordy warfare. Excitement reaches its full tide at Parliamentary elections, when it is not uncommon for words to lead to blows, and fisticuffs to be followed by the overturning of seats, and the "storming" of the platform. Policemen have often to be called in to quell the rioting. A notable instance of this occurred during a former Home Rule agitation, when the windows of Birmingham Town Hall were smashed, and the interior wrecked, Mr. Lloyd George, who was the chief speaker, having to make his escape in the guise of a fireman. More recent cases in point are those connected with the militant section of the suffragettes, a band of very assertive women who are conducting a sharp crusade to secure an extension of the franchise to women. Wearied and exasperated by the indifference of Parliament to the agitation, the women have hit upon a plan of focussing the attention of the public upon their claims by disturbing meetings addressed by Cabinet ministers, and supporters of the Government retaliate by breaking up the meetings of the suffragettes. Thus the game goes merrily on and the cause remains at a deadlock.

The Press, too, is a powerful medium for the

BRITISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

dissemination of thought. Regarded as the organs of public opinion, the British newspapers have become influential as a substitute or supplement to the hall or the discussion forum of the town. Unequalled as they are, in any other part of the world as vehicles for the communication of news, their educative influence is somewhat modified by their bias and prejudice when dealing with public and especially political questions. While there are some independent newspapers which discuss such matters fairly and honestly, and with a genuine desire to present the truth, others adopt a partisan policy, and, boycotting or belittling the meetings of their opponents, studiously restrict their columns to the advocacy of their own particular views. I myself had an experience of this "manipulation" of public speeches in such a way as to withhold anything with which the editorial mind may not agree. The truth being thus perverted or partially concealed, it is not very easy for a person of open mind to arrive at a proper conclusion on questions of public importance. This chloroforming process, however, has a recoiling effect, and often defeats its own purpose.

CHAPTER XXV

BRITAIN AND INDIA

THE discursive thoughts on Indian problems which came to me during my European tour, set down in preceding chapters, may have interest for some readers who have not thought seriously about the relation of India and England with each other as I have done during the past few months.

Providentially, there is British domination in India, and in the natural course of events, two policies are open in respect to the nation's progress—for nations, like individuals, cannot remain stationary. On the one hand, advancement may lie in the direction of giving Indians a fuller share in administrative affairs, and, as it were, enabling them to become self-reliant. The other course is to keep them in subjection and restrain the natural impulse of freedom which has been the secret of Britain's strength. This is more or less what the ancient Aryans tried to do with respect to the subject races they conquered, and they ultimately failed in their object.

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Unless India is able, in due course of time, to stand by her own efforts in the event of the strong arm of Britain being unhappily removed, the country will fall into the hands of some other nation, or into a state of anarchy, from which condition it has emerged comparatively recently. Britain itself had a decided experience of this character when the Romans withdrew from the country. Let not history repeat itself in the case of the present Imperial race with regard to their distant Empire.

Looking at matters broadly, I am more than ever convinced that there is a great future before India, because the British are lovers of freedom and justice. They look upon India as a trust from Providence, and recognise that the country must be governed mainly for the good of her people, and not for its exploitation in the interests of the rulers alone.

The greatest statesmen are alive to this fact. They discern that in the history of every nation there is bound to come a time when vitality begins to decline, and this period has to be reckoned with in the same way that the head of a family provides for the time when he may not be able to take an active part in the management of his house, by training his son to assist him and gradually relieve him of the burden of responsibility. The same may be said to be the attitude of the British nation towards India. In the fullness of time they desire that, under the protecting flag of Great Britain, India shall develop her

BRITAIN AND INDIA

strength and become self-reliant in the administration of her affairs.

Our future, as I have often said, depends on our continued connection with Great Britain; and posterity will no doubt remember her people as a benign race with liberal instincts who raised a self-reliant Indian nation out of a number of sporadic states, which, for centuries under foreign dominion, were steeped in darkness and consequent selfishness. We must not be disheartened if occasionally we hear of people who try to act contrary to this noble policy. I can assure my fellow-Indians that the nation as a whole is committed to this ideal, and really means to abide by it. The attitude of Great Britain is not one of mere lip sympathy but is inspired by a heart-felt desire to see the continued progress and happiness of the great Indian Empire. Despite occasional mutterings, British rule in India stands on a firmer footing to-day, and the loyalty of the millions of the Indian Empire is more real and genuine than ever before. As a man is known by his works, so nations are judged by their deeds. Great Britain has shown itself far superior to Rome, Portugal, and Spain in conquest and rule, and if it steadily pursues the policy I have suggested, it will create a name for itself that will be memorable for all time.

If my visit to the Malay Peninsula and Java deepened my conviction of the value of the British connection with India and my understanding of its real import, my present trip has also

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made an abiding impression. It has shown me more than ever that the salvation of our country really lies in our own efforts, guided by the parental care of our rulers. In order to attain this, our progress must not be in a few directions but in all. The provision of a liberal education means only the first step towards the goal. Along with social and political problems we must also try to grapple with great economic, commercial, industrial, educational, and hygienic questions. Above all, we must learn the habits of industry and perseverance, and cultivate courage and commercial and political morality in our undertakings. We must develop character and patriotism before we can hope to rise again in the estimation of the world. The task is very arduous, and will require sustained and prolonged effort. It will be many centuries before we can hope to attain our ideals, but I am a great believer in the future of our race—a race which we believe to be under the special care of the Divinity.

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